

THE ATHENÆUM.

No. 28. APRIL 1st, 1809.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

For the Athenæum.

REMARKS ON THE FORMATION OF CHARACTER.

(Continued.)

VIRGIL, in his third Georgic, describing the tokens by which a generous nature may be discerned in the young steed, mentions the impulse to take the lead of his fellows, and to be the first in every daring adventure :

Primus & ire viam, & fluvios tentare minaces
Audet, & ignoto sese committere ponti.

The same spirit is said to shew itself in young hounds of an excellent breed, and in various other animals of superior races.

The human species is not devoid of individuals born with similar indications of nobleness of nature—with a strong aspiration after excellence, and readiness to undergo any toils and hardships in pursuit of it. Happy is the parent or instructor to whose share one of these choice productions has fallen; for with this temper of mind there is no point of attainment within the reach of the pupil's faculties that may not be expected. It is, however, a disposition that requires peculiar delicacy and attention in the management; for when suffered to run untrained, or misdirected in its objects, it may easily be the source of more mischief than benefit, both to its owner and to society. Its almost inseparable companion is an ardent thirst of praise and admiration; and these are so often bestowed by the world without judgment or consideration, that unless a true estimate of things be first established in the youth's own mind, this emotion, so useful as a stimulative, may be exercised upon the most frivolous or improper objects. Another frequent attendant upon this disposition is the ambi-

tion of grasping at a great number of attainments at the same time, in order to dazzle beholders by unexpected combinations of excellence; through the indulgence of which desire, real excellence in any is often precluded, and fine abilities are seen to blossom without bringing any fruit to maturity. For these reasons, there is no class of minds in which so much may be usefully done by discipline and instruction towards the formation of character, as that which is our present subject—a fact which will be rendered apparent by those biographical examples both of excellence and defect which will occupy the remaining part of this paper.

The most splendid instance of the passion for excelling, presented by history, is that of *Alexander the Great*. This prince, to whom fortune gave the means ready prepared of rising to the summit of martial fame, would probably have distinguished himself in any condition. The tamer of Bucephalus and the pupil of Aristotle could scarcely have been a common man. It is in some respects unfortunate for mankind that there should be a class of human beings, so much elevated above the rest of the species, that they can scarcely find any object on which to exercise the desire of pre-eminence, at the same time innocent, and sufficiently dignified. Thus Alexander refused to enter his name at the Olympic games unless he could have kings for competitors; and the great game of contending for the empire of the world was the only one that could satisfy his noble emulation. Even in this he seems rather to have been moved by the passion of accomplishing difficult and extraordinary tasks, than by the vulgar desire of aggrandisement; and the conqueror in him was subordinate to the hero. In the pursuit of this object he showed himself, at least in the early part of his career, superior to the allurements of ease and luxury, and capable of confronting every kind of toil and danger; and thus has established a claim to that genuine ardour for excelling, which cannot be gratified without the consciousness of personal merits. Sovereigns have such easy methods of indulging the wish for distinction, that no force of mind is required for the attempt. An Egyptian king had only to employ all his subjects in the idle work of erecting a loftier pyramid than any of his predecessors had done, to render his name eternally illustrious among a people of slaves. In more enlightened countries, the building of sumptuous palaces, and the formation of grand establishments for the arts and sciences, though costing nothing to the monarch but an exertion of his will, shall perpetuate his memory with the most magnificent eulogies. Thus Louis XIV. by nature cold and inactive, by education uninformed and illiterate, having in the pride of self-consequence said to himself—In whatever point other kings have been great, I will be so too—employed the stock of wealth, power, and talent which he inherited with his crown, in such a manner as to become the most conspicuous name in Europe during half a century, though without a quality which could have distinguished him from the mass, if born in an humble condition.

To return from the spurious to the genuine exemplifications of the class

class in question—One of the most memorable examples afforded by history of the passion for excelling, joined with talents and industry, and many advantages of nature and fortune, is that of *Alcibiades*. This celebrated Athenian displayed from childhood the resolution which is essential to greatness of character, as we learn from the following remarkable incident: being at play with other boys in the street, a loaded waggon came up just as the game required him to run across: he called to the driver to stop, and finding that he paid no regard to his mandate, he threw himself upon the ground before the wheel, and bid the man drive on if he chose. Many were the frolics of his youth, in all of which he exhibited a daring and imperious temper, and a resolution to distinguish himself in every thing he undertook. He was an attentive and favourite pupil of Socrates, and at the same time the most noted debauchee in Athens. He was an eloquent speaker, a valiant commander, and a deep politician, whilst he was the first racer at the Olympic games, and dazzled all Greece by his profuse magnificence. He was every thing in extremes, and nothing moderately. In Sparta he was admired as a pattern of abstemiousness and hardness, and in Persia he surpassed a satrap in luxury. Every where he was an object of wonder, but no where long of esteem; and for want of fixed principles and steadiness of conduct he passed his life in perpetual change, and at length perished miserably; a signal example of the abuse of great talents, with powers of mind capable of bringing them into full exertion, but misdirected in their application.

Various parallels might be found to the character of Alcibiades, the splendour of which seems to have made it an object of emulation to men of parts and of loose principles. As far as the passion for exciting admiration by extraordinary actions and accomplishments was its prominent feature, that of the *Duke of Wharton* nearly resembled it. Of this nobleman, Pope, in his finely drawn portrait (*Moral Ess. Ep. 1.*) says, that the "ruling passion was the lust of praise:" and that

Born with whate'er could win it from the wise,
Women and foo's* must like him, or he dies;
Tho' wond'ring senates hung on all he spoke,
The club must hail him master of the joke, &c.

In Wharton this propensity seems to have been of a lower quality than in Alcibiades, and attended with inferior powers of exertion. Accordingly, the Athenian never sunk into the contempt which attended the Englishman, but in the lowest ebb of his fortune retained consequence enough to make him feared. Wharton ended "flagitious but not great."

When the love of praise preponderates the desire of excelling, or when the latter is occupied with unworthy objects, the character is chiefly

* A most injurious combination, characteristic of the splenetic misogynist who made it!

chiefly marked by childish vanity and incongruity. Even the detestable *Nero* displayed a great passion for being admired in the arts of poetry, music, and acting; and not entirely satisfied with the hired or compelled acclamations of his servile audiences, he actually took great pains, and underwent many privations to qualify himself for appearing before the refined connoisseurs of Greece. He was much more affected by being called, in the manifesto of one who had taken up arms against him, "a sorry musician," than by all the reproaches for his cruelty and misgovernment; and amidst the terrors of his approaching fate, frequently repeated, "What an artist I perish!"

The emperor *Julian* was a singularly compounded character, the basis of which was a passion for becoming conspicuous; and though in some points it displayed itself in puerile vanity, in others it inspired exertions worthy of his high station. Early a convert to heathen philosophy, he adopted with fanatical zeal all the tenets of pagan theology, and pryed with futile curiosity into all its mysteries; but at the same time he practised all those high lessons of self command, temperance, and contempt of pomp and splendour, which are infinitely more difficult to a philosopher on the throne, than to one in the schools. Vain of his learning and talents, and imbued with the spirit of literary equality, he descended to act the haranguer, the disputant, and the satirist, and sunk the dignity of the emperor in the loquacity of the sophist. Yet he aimed, not unsuccessfully, at the glory of a legislator; and, more unhappily and inconsistently, at that of a conqueror; aspiring to be at the same time an *Antoninus* and an *Alexander*. After emulating the greatest warriors in courage, activity, and the endurance of hardship of every kind, he lost his life and brought the empire into extreme danger, by a rash attack upon a foe from whom, even in better times, the Roman arms had reaped little but disgrace. He was, in fact, an enthusiast clad in a philosopher's mantle.

The ambition to excel has rarely appeared with more lustre than in the two famous orators of Greece and Rome, *Demosthenes* and *Cicero*; for in both it was accompanied with a steadiness of pursuit, and a limitation to important objects, which raised them to high distinction in their several states, and has perpetuated their names among those of the greatest characters of antiquity.

In *Demosthenes* the passion was more confined, embracing only the wish of attaining the first rank among the political orators of his country; and numerous are the anecdotes recorded of his indefatigable efforts to overcome the natural defects under which he laboured, and to surpass all the most eloquent speakers of his time. It was, indeed, no common object of emulation to become the man,

quem mirabantur Athenæ
Torrentem, & pleni moderantem fræna theatri.

Juvenal.

or,

or, in the words of Milton, who

Wielded at will that fierce democracy,
Shook th' arsenal, and fulmin'd over Greece,
To Macedon, and Artaxerxes' throne.

Par. Reg.

And although his love of praise may be thought to have stooped to a vulgar gratification when he was delighted to hear one market-woman say to another—That is the famous Demosthenes!—yet those women were Athenians; and he knew at the same time that the Macedonian court by its hatred bore an equal testimony to his reputation. Though not superior to corruption, he possessed a fund of real patriotism, and the liberty of his country expired with him.

Cicero was so much favoured by nature in genius and disposition, that while yet a school-boy he became the pride and wonder of his young companions. The facility, however, with which he obtained youthful distinction did not slacken his efforts in pursuit of mature excellence; and when he had determined upon the forum as his chief scene of action, there was no study connected with the theory and practice of perfect oratory in which he did not engage with the greatest ardour. His ideas of this perfection were more extended than those of Demosthenes, as his topics of public speaking were more varied. He had likewise a peculiar relish for philosophical discussion; and having, during the course of his education, furnished his mind from the copious stores of Grecian literature in this branch of research, he was enabled, after the subversion of the Roman constitution had set him aside from professional duties, to distinguish himself as the greatest writer on morals and philosophy in the Latin language. How much that thirst of praise which stimulated him to these extraordinary exertions was the foible of this admirable person, is too well known; but though weakly covetous of fame, his excellent sense and liberal principles led him to seek it in the paths of true glory.

Sir William Jones appears to have been inspired with as pure and honourable a passion for excelling, as almost any individual upon record. He was not less distinguished among the companions of his early studies than *Cicero* himself; and his masters might confidently predict that he would turn out no common man. Perhaps he had something of the splendid fault so frequently accompanying this cast of character, the ambition of aiming at too many acquisitions at once; but how few have really equalled him in the extent of his knowledge and the brilliancy of his performances? It is, indeed, a kind of presumption to set limits to the capacities of a mind endued with great natural powers, and excited to action by a strong and unremitting impulse. Many examples prove that much more may be effected by generous enterprize than timid indolence would conceive possible; and although we may sometimes wish that ardour were spontaneously tempered by discretion, yet we should be reluctant to damp it by discouragement or censure.

It

It is scarcely necessary to prolong this paper by instances of the passion in question displayed by the votaries of particular arts or professions, since wherever superior excellence is found, that may be presumed to have preceded. Those arts which address themselves in a peculiar manner to public admiration exhibit the emulative spirit in a high degree, and the history of painting and sculpture affords remarkable examples of its agency. But when thus confined to one object, and to that with which every flattering prospect in life is connected, it perhaps does not so clearly designate the general disposition, as when operating more excursively. It cannot, however, be doubted, that when the pursuit of excellence has occupied the whole man during life, as in the case of *Michael Angelo*, the same temper would have shewn itself under any circumstances. It is, indeed, a disposition so ready to burst forth into display, that it scarcely admits of concealment; and as Dryden beautifully says of Mrs. Killebrew, whom he represents as fired with the passion for universal excellence, the "bright soul breaks out on every side."

N. N.

EXTRACTS FROM A MANUSCRIPT JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND ADRIATIC.

(Continued.)

When we left Messina we had some charming prospects on each side the Straits—a wild romantic country, some towns along the coast, and several picturesque convents among the rocks on the side of Calabria; and, on the other hand, we saw many villages delightfully situated on the lofty coast of Sicily. We had again a most magnificent view of Mount *Etna*; volumes of smoke were issuing out of the crater, which, rapidly falling down its snow-clad sides, formed around its middle region an immense zone, and produced a very singular appearance; for the summit of the mountain, thus towering in all its grandeur above the gross vapours of the earth, seemed of itself a world suspended in the apparent vacuum of the heavens!

When we cleared Cape Spartivento a fine breeze soon brought us near Corfu; but before we could make the island, the wind shifted, and for a few hours exposed us to all the turbulence of a storm. A flash of lightning struck our main-mast with a tremendous explosion: for some minutes a dread of fire created general alarm; for whilst efforts were made to cut away the ropes that were burning under the main-top, an officer, pale as death in his countenance, came on the quarter-deck, and reported that a smoke issued from the vicinity of the magazine. The poor man was alarmed, and, God knows, he caused in all of us a fellow feeling. However, by timely exertions on deck, and a more deliberate examination of the hold, we were eased

eased of our fears, though the clouds still continued to threaten. A Sicilian pilot, whom we had on board, swore, when all danger was over, that *he* had saved the ship by suspending a portrait of the Virgin on the mast, and vowed an offering of his purse (which contained a few rials) to the first priest he should meet in Corfu. We cast anchor there in the night. The following morning I eagerly got upon deck to see an island so celebrated in every period of its history: in modern times famous as connected with the annals of Venice, but still more interesting as the Phæacia of Homer, and Corcyra of Thucydides. The fine bay that forms the harbour is truly beautiful; indeed the whole scenery around forms altogether a very singular variety: on the continent is presented a naked barren shore, bounded by a chain of mountains covered with snow; whereas, towards the island, we see a pleasing mixture of hills and plains, clothed with groves and the loveliest verdure.

The first visit I made to the city of Corfu was at the time of the carnival; for, as the inhabitants have adopted most of the Venetian customs, they have their carnival here as in Italy. The spectacle of a public masquerade in the streets appeared to me sufficiently agreeable and ridiculous. The class of nobles, or, in other words, the "fashionables" of Corfu, joined in the evening *promenades* on the grand parade, but always without masks. The city of Corfu is dirty and disagreeable, yet the situation is so pleasant that I can readily conceive it must have been, under the Venetian government, that is, in the time of its prosperity, a charming place of residence. The walks in the neighbourhood are extremely beautiful, and the country around at this season of the year (April) is beginning to exhibit all its luxuriance and fertility. The orange, the vine, the fig-tree, and an abundance of other fruit-trees, appear to flourish without care, and the whole island may well be called a wilderness of olives. Of all my rambles, a walk about two miles south of the city has afforded me most pleasure. Here, we are told, is the scite of the ancient Corcyra, and in the plains beyond it were the gardens of Alcinoüs. That this was the situation of the old city and port of Corcyra, the remains of an amphitheatre, and the ship of Ulysses, bear ample testimony to this day. The *ship* of Ulysses?—most assuredly—you still see it at the entrance of the bay, metamorphosed, it is true, into a little island; but as it required only a stretch of the fancy in Homer to convert it into a rock, a trifling effort of the imagination is fully sufficient also to restore it to its original form. Not far from the scite of the amphitheatre is an old Greek church, which has a beautiful portico of white marble, no doubt a *morceau* of some antiquity, though not (as a *connoisseur* would say) of the best ages of Greece. This, indeed, is confirmed by a mutilated Greek inscription, stating it to have been built by the emperor Jovian, who professed the christian religion; at least so says Jacob Spon, whose ability and patience in decyphering an unintelligible inscription no one will presume to question.

Before

Before I quit the scite of the old city, I must give you a hasty glance, however imperfect it may be, of the lovely and varied prospects which surround it. I stand on the summit of a small hill terminating one side of a bay, formerly the old port of Corcyra. This hill on the land side gradually descends into the beautiful plain, which for its fertility still merits to be called the garden of Alcinoüs. On the opposite side of the water the coast again rises into a romantic hill, covered with olives and a few cypresses, with here and there a cottage to enliven the picture. Next look at the little island at the mouth of the bay, and you have every object you can desire in so limited a compass; but, cast your eyes beyond this, the scenery is at once grand and enchanting; the island itself an almost continued grove, rising in several parts into considerable hills, where the inhabitants have fixed their villages, and which at this distance have a most picturesque appearance. To the north you see the fortress and city of Corfu; beyond this, the harbour, bounded by the steep and lofty mountain of Salvadore. Still in the direction of the Adriatic, we see that immense chain of rocks formerly celebrated as the Ceraunian mountains of Epirus. Nor is the canal of Corfu, that separates it from the main land, altogether devoid of interest: the brown aspect of the Albanian shore, half wild, half cultivated, creates a variety, and the islands of Paxos and St. Maura, which are seen at the entrance of the Straits to the south, are a pleasing relief to the grandeur and majesty of the scene.

The island of Corfu is situated at the entrance of the Adriatic, of which it may, in some measure, be considered the *Key*; at least the Venetians thought so; and if we consider the great sums they expended on its fortifications, and the efforts they have made in defending it, we may take it for granted that they were fully persuaded of the great importance of this post. The Turks also seem to have been sensible of the advantages of its situation, for they have made many attempts to take it, though never with success. It was formerly under the dominion of the kings of Naples, but in the year 1386 the inhabitants voluntarily submitted to the republic of Venice; and Ladislas, king of Naples, wisely making a virtue of necessity, ceded all his rights to it in 1401, for the sum of thirty thousand ducats. From that time it remained under the power of the Venetians, till Venice itself was subjugated during the late war, when the French lost not a moment to reoccupy it. It was afterwards taken by the Turks and Russians, and, at the peace of Amiens, this and the other Ionian islands were converted into a republic, under the immediate protection of the Russians. Since then, this *republic* has enjoyed a *nominal* independence, it is true, but in reality entirely subservient to the commanders of the Russian garrison.*

This

* It is hardly necessary to inform the reader that Corfu and the other Ionian islands have since been given up to the French, conformably to one of those secret articles of the treaty of Tilsit which Alexander appears ashamed publicly to acknowledge.

This island is about 45 miles in length, S. E. and N. W.; its greatest breadth, which is towards the north, is probably 14 or 15 miles; in every other part considerably narrower. It contains from sixty to seventy thousand inhabitants, whose established religion is that of the Greek church; but there are many Catholics among the descendants of Venetian families, who have a church and bishop of their own. There are only two cities in the island (or, indeed, only one, for the first is a poor place) *Cassopo*, the Cassiopé of the ancients, and *Corfu*, now the capital of the sept-insular republic.

Notwithstanding the fertility of the soil, they grow very little corn in Corfu, scarcely enough for two or three months consumption; nor do they lay out much land in pasturage; but they cultivate the vine in perfection. They have olives, lemons, oranges, and citrons in abundance; peaches, apricots, melons, and figs, which are, perhaps, the finest flavoured in the world. The commerce of the island consists only in the exportation of some oil; but, under the Venetian government, they were accustomed to send out annually about 200,000 bushels of salt, procured by evaporating sea-water conducted into shallow pits near the shore. The oil made here is much inferior to that which is procured from Zante and some of the other neighbouring islands, in consequence, as I am told, of the indolence of the Corfiots, who suffer the olives to drop off the trees before they gather them. It is also surprising, that though they have grapes here in the first perfection, the wine which they make has acquired no higher rank than that of the common beverage of the peasants. Almost all the necessaries and luxuries of life they import: they are supplied from Albania not only with corn, cattle, and sheep, but even with fire-wood to dress their victuals. Game they have in great plenty on the island, and the market is generally well supplied with woodcocks, snipes, and wild ducks, at a moderate price—a proof that *game-laws* are not *absolutely* requisite for their preservation. Poultry is also in tolerable plenty, and a good deal of *botargo* (prepared from the roe of the red female mullet) is sold here; likewise considerable quantity of *caviare*, a preparation from the roe of the sturgeon, which is brought from the Black Sea.

(To be continued.)

SEAL-CATCHING AND FISHERY IN THE FEROE ISLANDS.

The catching of seals is also of great importance to the inhabitants of these islands. Of the two kinds generally found here, one is the *phoca vitulina*, and the other the *phoca hispida*. The first are either shot, or, when they lie asleep on the shore, the natives steal upon them and knock them on the head with clubs. The other kind, which for the most part keep in holes or caverns, which proceed from the

sea under the rocks, and in which they pair and produce their young, are caught in the following manner: The mouth of some of these holes is below water, and in that case it is impossible to get into them; but the entrance into others is so large, that one can row into them with a boat; and the farther one goes, the water becomes shallower, till one comes to a dry bottom with a large broad arch over it, which gives a strong echo. It is here that these seals have their place of residence. At the time when the young ones are pretty large and fat, the natives repair to these holes with two boats, one of which enters the cavern, while the other remains at the mouth. Between the boats there is a rope eighty fathoms in length, in order that if the boat in the inside should be filled with water, the people in the outer one may be able to drag it out. As there is not sufficient room in the entrance for rowing into the cavern, the boatmen push the boat in with poles, and as most of these cavities are entirely dark, they are furnished with lights; but they must be concealed in the boat as much as possible, lest the seals, perceiving the glare of them too soon, should make their escape. These lights are large candles formed of old linen, twisted together and dipped in tallow. When the boatmen have got so far in that they can reach the dry bottom, the first man springs from the boat with his club; the second man then jumps out, bearing a light in each hand, which must be held well up, that they may not be extinguished by the water; and he is soon followed by the third, having his club ready prepared also. As soon as the seals, which are lying on the dry bottom, perceive the men and the lights, they rush towards the water; but the men endeavour to give them a well-aimed blow on the head or snout, by which they are stunned, and they then dispatch them by cutting their throats. It sometimes happens that the large males, when they find that they cannot escape, become furious and make an obstinate resistance. On such occasions they raise themselves on their hind legs, with their jaws wide open, ready to attack their opponent, who must then avoid them and endeavour to knock them down with his club; but if the seal chances to meet the intended blow with his open mouth, he forces the club from the man's hands, and throws it several yards from him; in which case the man must be assisted by his nearest companion. When all the old seals have been dispatched, the men proceed farther into the cavern, where the young ones remain quiet lying on the dry rock, without paying any attention to the people or the lights, and in this manner become an easy prey. When the slaughter is ended, the dead seals are dragged to the water, and being made fast to a rope, are drawn out by the people in the other boat; and if there be any surf at the time, which is often the case, though the most favourable period is chosen for this labour, the inner boat is drawn out in the same manner. Seal-catching at present is not so productive as it was formerly. From eight to ten may be caught in most of these caverns, but sometimes the number killed amounts to twenty or thirty. Some caverns are so far distant, that the inhabitants cannot without great difficulty

difficulty go thither to catch the seals which frequent them; they are therefore assigned to the inhabitants of some other island who reside nearest to the spot, and who receive a part of the booty. The skins are employed for shoes; but some skins are stripped off whole, and when well dried are used as bags for holding different articles, as every thing put into them can be conveniently conveyed and preserved during wet weather. The fat is melted into oil; but few eat the flesh, though it has a pretty good taste when salted and boiled. The skins of the small and very young seals are converted into tobacco pouches.

The Feroe boats are exceedingly light in proportion to their size, and constructed more for rowing than for sailing. The largest have ten or twelve rowers, and are used chiefly in the southern islands for conveying loads to and from Thorshavn; but in general the largest are rowed by eight or ten men at most; they are employed chiefly in the torsk fishery, out in the open sea. The least are rowed by four men, and are employed for fishing in the creeks and small bays; but there is a class of boats between these two which are rowed by eight men, and can be used for both kinds of fishing. The largest boats are twenty-four feet in length between both prows, and six feet broad in the middle from one gunwale to the other. They are, therefore, long and narrow according to their size, and sharp-pointed at both ends. The prows are raised somewhat in the form of a goose's neck, which is exceedingly convenient when it is necessary to draw them into the water, or from the water to the dry sand. The keel is of oak, and the planking of Norway fir-trees, which are sawn for the small boats, but for the large are thinned a little with an axe. The seams are caulked with wool dipped in tar, and the interstices between the ends of the planks are filled up with cloth dipped also in tar; but the planks are fastened to each other with iron nails, and below each nail is a small plate of iron, with a hole in it, through which the nail is driven. In the other parts wooden pins are used. A thong of leather, fastened into the gunwale, passes round each oar, and prevents it from slipping from the cavity in which it plays; and a piece of wood rises from the gunwale, with a hole in it, through which the fishing-line runs when let out or drawn in. The mast is short in comparison of the size of the boat, because the people of Feroe are afraid that their boats might be overset by the winds if the sails were too large. Each boat has only one; it is made of coarse cloth, and at the top is exceedingly narrow, but broad at the bottom. No ropes belong to the sail; but when the wind is strong the people shorten the sail by holding it in their hands; a service which those nearest the sail must always perform. Few of these boats are built with a rudder; they are generally steered by means of the oars; yet some of them are furnished with what is called *stuir*, which is an implement like a short oar, with which the master steers the boat when necessary.

The skill with which the natives manage these boats in boisterous weather, even when they are deeply laden, is really astonishing.

When

When lightly laden, they do not give themselves much trouble to prevent the waves dashing into them; they, indeed, endeavour to avoid them, by turning the end of the boat towards them; but if this be not possible, and if it be necessary to encounter the wave sideways, which is the most dangerous, they exert all their strength to place the boat in such a manner that the wave shall dash over only one half of it; for though one half of the boat be filled with water, it is still capable of swimming, and they then employ the utmost diligence to bale out the water before another wave comes upon them. In these cases it is a great advantage that they have pretty long oars, and that these oars are fastened to the boat with leather thongs. A boat, with proper care, will last twenty or thirty years. In some places, where the landing is bad, boats are drawn on shore by making them glide on their keel; but to prevent it from being damaged, they place below it some round pieces of timber, to serve as rollers. In winter they are put into a building erected for the purpose.

The fishery at Feroe is far from being at present what it was formerly, for fish at one time were an important article of food and of commerce to the inhabitants; but they have now almost entirely deserted the coast. Hence it appears, that the quantity of fish is either become less, or that the fishing banks around these islands have, in consequence of storms or other causes, been exposed to some changes, so that they no longer afford the same food and shelter to the fish which would otherwise frequent them, or the fish have found out some other places more agreeable to their habits and wants. However this may be, there are few places where fishing in most years is not attended with loss rather than advantage. But as all years are not equally unsuccessful, and even in unsuccessful years as large quantities are caught on certain days, a taste for fishing is maintained among the inhabitants, and often to the prejudice of agriculture.

The kinds of fish caught in salt water are torsk, halibut and cod.

The torsk are sought for by the natives in certain places, to which they give the name of *meed*. These places are either on a stony bottom where there may be a fresh-water spring; sand banks abounding with crabs and marine insects, which the torsk use as food, or where they deposit their spawn or eggs, in order that they may be hatched by the warmth of the sun; or cavities near the shore, where the torsk seek shelter behind rocks from the restlessness of the waves; and it is not improbable that the boisterous winds which prevail on the coasts of these islands some years more than in others, may be one great cause of the uncertainty of the fishery at these islands.

These *meeds* or fishing places are discovered by certain marks which are observed on shore; for example, by the top of a hill or other mark coming in a line with the top of another hill, or with the extremity of an island, eminence, rivulet, or fissure in some rock. When the tops of the hills, therefore, are covered with fog, to row out to fish becomes very uncertain, however favourable the sea and weather in other

other respects may be. There are many of these fishing places around Feroe which lie at the distance of from one to five miles from the shore. Each island has some of its own, to which the inhabitants generally resort, because they are nearest to them; but there are some, and particularly the largest, which are frequented by the inhabitants of several islands. These places are in general small, and are only a few fathoms in length or breadth. The largest and best, and the only one which deserves the name of a fishing bank, is *Daniel's meed*, two miles north from Kalsoe. It is above three quarters of a mile long, half a mile broad, and has a bottom consisting of sand and stones.

A fishing-line, almost as thick as a swan's quill, and from sixty to eighty fathoms in length, made of hemp, spun and twisted by the natives themselves, is almost the only tackle with which they fish at sea. To the lower end of it is suspended an oval stone, weighing three pounds, and in this stone grooves are formed, by means of which a short line, with an eye for receiving the fishing line, is made fast to it. A small thong with a hook is also fastened to the stone. The bait employed is fish, but not dried; and in want of it, a piece of meat, until the first fish is caught, which then supplies bait; and the entrails of the fish caught are immediately taken out and thrown into the sea, in order to entice the fish to keep around the boat.

When the fishermen catch a large halibut, ray, or other fish which the hook is not strong enough to hold, they use an instrument called *klepjadn*, which consists of a large hook, fastened to the end of a thick piece of wood, having a handle to it; this piece of wood must be of such a size, that when the hook is added to it, it can float on the water; and a piece of cord is fixed to it, that the fish may be held fast in case it should be so strong as to wrest the instrument from the hand of the person who uses it. A large fish can be easily drawn up with the fishing-line to the gunwale of the boat; but the hook is thrust into it, for the purpose of dragging it into the boat, or in case it be a young shark, which is often too large to be taken into the boat, it is kept at the surface of the water till the fishermen can cut out its liver, which is the only part of that fish which they use.

The torsk fishery begins properly in March and continues till August. Halibut are caught in April along with the torsk; but after that period they are caught alone. When the summer is pretty far advanced, they approach nearer to the land and enter the creeks, where the natives fish for them by suffering their boats to drift along with the currents.

(To be continued.)

LORD RODNEY'S CLAIM TO THE INVENTION OF BREAK-
ING THE LINE STATED.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Feb. 19, 1809.

Sir,

FOR several years past the periodical publications have been full of panegyrics on Mr. Clerk, of Eldin, on account of his having been the supposed inventor of the successful practice of breaking an enemy's line of battle in naval engagements. There is a communication to this effect in your last number; nor is Mr. Clerk himself sparing in assertions of this kind, very methodically arranged, and, doubtless, arising from his own perfect conviction of their truth.

I am myself, Sir, a physician, somewhat declining into the vale of years, long in habits of close intimacy with Lord Rodney, who first practiced that manœuvre, and with whom I have so often conversed on this very subject, that I think myself tolerably well qualified to discuss it with Mr. Clerk: and whatever merit in point of originality that ingenious gentleman may himself possess, I am much mistaken if I shall not be able to shew that his representations are defective, inaccurate, and highly derogatory to the well-earned fame of the noble Admiral, whose bold and ardent mind achieved success, which those who envied him thought they depreciated, when they bestowed on him the title of Fortune.

Mr. Clerk, in the preface to the second edition of his work on Naval Tactics, page 7, tells us,

1st. That Lord Rodney's knowledge of this principle was obtained from a communication made to him by himself, through Mr. Richard Atkinson, in the month of January, 1780; and afterwards, page 8,

2dly, That what Lord Rodney had first learned, he most strangely omitted to practice on the first subsequent opportunity, and therefore did not break the French line, in order to cut off a part of their fleet, in his engagement with Mons. Guichen off Martinique, on the 17th of April following.

On the contrary, I think I shall demonstrate,

1st. That Lord Rodney did actually, with this view, break the French line on that day; and,

2dly. That he could not possibly have been induced to attempt this manœuvre by any information received from Mr. Clerk in the preceding January.

With regard to the first point, I must here premise, that Lord Rodney's letter, as it appears in the Gazette, is a most mutilated and imperfect account of this extraordinary action. It is, in fact, only stiled the "Extract of a letter;" and its implied censures of
his

his Captains are such as to have induced Lord George Gordon to move the House of Commons "That a copy of the *whole* letter should be laid before the House." This motion was supported by Mr. Fox, Admiral Keppel, and others, but negatived, on a division, by a majority of 161 to 60; Lord North having declared, "That it would be improper to publish the *whole* of the letter; and that, if the House were acquainted with the contents, he was confident they would agree with him in opinion." From this source alone, defective as it is, Mr. Clerk professes himself competent to decide as to the intentions of the British commander. Now, Sir, while I adduce other indisputable authority to refute Mr. Clerk, I shall also be able to confirm my deductions by the very Gazette on which he relies.

Lord Rodney himself at various times informed me, that, two days before the action, he did, either by oral or written communication, acquaint each Captain in his fleet, that it was his intention to attack that of the enemy; not their entire fleet of 23 sail with his inferior one of 20, but a part of their's, as, for example, 15 or 16, with his whole fleet. He added, that a most happy opportunity offered of effecting the purpose; Mons. Guichen's line on the 17th of April extending four leagues in length, "as if," said Lord Rodney, "he thought we meant to run away from him." Agreeably to this intention, thus clearly expressed, "I made," says he in the Gazette, "the signal for the line a-head, at two cables length distance;" and soon afterwards, "I gave notice by public signal, that my intention was to attack the enemy's rear with my whole force; which signal was answered by every ship in the fleet." "At 7 a.m. perceiving the fleet too much extended, I made the signal for a line of battle at one cable's length asunder only. At 30 minutes after 8 a.m. I made a signal for a line of battle abreast, and bore down upon the enemy." So far Mr. Clerk acknowledges that Lord Rodney's design was clear, and conformable to his own.

The Gazette proceeds. "This signal was penetrated by them, who discovered my intention, wore, and formed a line of battle on the other tack. I immediately made the signal to haul the wind, and form the line of battle a-head. At 9 a.m. made a signal for the line of battle a-head, at two cable's length, on the larboard tack. At 11 a.m. I made the signal to prepare for battle; to convince the whole fleet I was determined to bring the enemy to an engagement. At 50 minutes after 11 a.m. I made the signal for every ship to bear down and steer for her opposite in the enemy's line, agreeable to the 21st article in the additional fighting instructions."

It is this last signal which Mr. Clerk more especially quotes as an abandonment of Lord Rodney's purpose, which he had before admitted, of "attacking the enemy's rear with his whole force." He conceives it to have been meant by Lord Rodney, that his headmost ship should attack the headmost of the enemy, and so on in succession throughout his fleet; and if we may judge of the opinion of the Captains a-head of him by their conduct, this interpretation was also their's. But
though

though his officers misunderstood him, he certainly did not misunderstand himself. This, however, he must have done, if Mr. Clerk's opinion were just; for, in that case, reckoning from the headmost ship of the enemy, he ought to have attacked that immediately a-head of the Couronne, whereas it appears from the Gazette that the Sandwich, before she engaged the Couronne, "had beaten three ships out of their line of battle, had entirely broke it, and was to *leeward* of the wake of the French admiral." This fact is totally mis-stated by Mr. Clerk, whose plan, plate x. part 1, figures 4 and 5, represents the three French ships driven out of the line, and also the Triumphant or Fendant, as being all four a-head of the French Admiral in the Couronne, and the Sandwich as being to *windward* of the wake of the French Admiral.

Mr. Clerk also in the same plate, figure 4, represents our two headmost ships as beginning the engagement with the two headmost of the enemy. Now this could not have been the case; because from the position of the English line somewhat astern of that of the French, as drawn by Mr. Clerk himself, our headmost ships, bearing down somewhat diagonally on a widely-spread and more numerous fleet, must have required much more time to reach the enemy's van, than the Sandwich to reach even their center; whereas we are on the contrary positively told, that only a few minutes took place between the first firing of our headmost ships and that of the Sandwich. "A few minutes before 1, one of our headmost ships began the action, and at 1 the Sandwich, in the center, after having received several fires from the enemy, began to engage."

The fact was this: Lord Rodney meaning to "attack the enemy's rear with his whole force" (as every ship in his fleet had separately shewn him they understood) ordered each ship to bear down and engage the enemy's ship then opposite to him, a signal having been previously made "to form the line of battle at two cable's length asunder;" and afterwards another "to engage close, and of course the Admiral's ship to be the example." It was, therefore, manifestly his intention that they should reckon from him; notwithstanding which, all the ships a-head of the Admiral, engaging as they came up, and passing along the enemy's line, successively exposed themselves to their fire, and left the Admiral to himself. All this was, doubtless, explained in Lord Rodney's letter to the Admiralty, who, in the words of Lord North, "thought it would be improper to publish the whole of the letter."

That the fact was as I have stated it, I was not only informed by Lord Rodney himself, but by an officer of Marines on board the Cornwall, the ship immediately a-head of the Admiral in the English line. That gentleman told me, that during the action, as the smoke cleared away, seeing the Sandwich at a great distance, he remarked to one of the Lieutenants, "We have made a great mistake here. There is a signal flying for a close action at two cable's length asunder, and we are a league a-head of the Admiral. Pray tell the Captain." To which

which the Lieutenant bluntly replied, "No, damn him; let him find it out himself." If this mistake happened with regard to his van and half his center, it was not less the case with regard to his rear, which followed the flying rear of the French to such a distance, that it was absolutely two days before they again came in sight of their Admiral; and, when they first saw him, knew not for a while whether he was a friend or an enemy. These points are, indeed, admitted, though most cautiously worded, in the *Gazette*. "Such was the distance of the van and rear from the centre, &c. that it was impossible to pursue the enemy that night without the greatest disadvantage." I appeal to Mr. Clerk himself, whether it could, consistently with common sense, have been the wish of Lord Rodney that his fleet, dividing itself into squadrons, in direct disobedience of his signals, should leave him with a few ships to fight the battle with half the enemy's fleet? The mortification which the gallant commander felt on this occasion no words can express. Of his victory on the 12th of April, 1782, I know that he thought little. He had a contemptuous opinion of the naval character of De Grasse, but always spoke in the highest terms of that of Guichen, whom he considered as the best officer in the French service; and he looked on this opportunity of beating such an officer with an inferior fleet as one by which, but for the disobedience of his Captains, he might have gained immortal renown. Under this impression it was, that, without adverting in his letter to the behaviour of a single officer in his whole line, he indulged in the bitter sarcasm, that the "French Admiral had the honour to be nobly supported during the whole action." Under this impression, three or four days after the battle, he gave his surviving officers a severe reprimand on board his own ship; and was about to try several of them in the West Indies, or send them home under arrest to England. Under this impression, he changed his order of battle, placing the *Montagu* and *Ajax* on each side of him in the line, as commanded by officers who would pay him prompt obedience; and, lastly, under the same impression, he threatened that, in his next action, he would station himself in a frigate, that he might better observe the conduct of all his Captains, and on the spot degrade any individual who should disobey him.

Why did Lord Rodney entertain these feelings? Did he doubt the courage of his officers? No; he expressly asserted the contrary. He spoke in the highest terms of their bravery; but he said that they were influenced by a spirit of party, and that there was "not a Captain on board his fleet who did not think himself capable of being Prime Minister of Great Britain." His conduct with regard to the *Cornwall* was a sufficient proof of the opinion which he formed, and the motives which influenced him. This ship, carrying only 64 guns; lost in the engagement one man more than the *Sandwich* of 90 guns; and yet Lord Rodney, in his second arrangement, placed her at a distance from him in the line, evidently because she had disobeyed his signals and frustrated his designs.

From all circumstances it is evident, that Lord Rodney did actually himself break the enemy's line, and that he intended his own conduct to be an example to his fleet; who, however, defeated his purpose by a total want of co-operation.

Having thus, I think, proved the design of Lord Rodney, I am next to examine Mr. Clerk's assertion, that it was prompted by him. His claim is contained in the following words: "In January 1780, when I was in London, being fully impressed with the importance of the naval ideas which had long been working in my imagination, and in consequence of the strictures on Lord Keppel's engagement sent the year before, some appointments, for the purpose of farther communications on this subject, were made by my friends. Among the first of these was an appointment with Mr. Richard Atkinson, the particular friend of Sir George Rodney, who was then in London. At this meeting I communicated to Mr. Atkinson the theories of attack both from the windward and the leeward, &c. All this Mr. Atkinson undertook to communicate to Sir George Rodney, which he could have no difficulty in doing. From the best authority I have been informed, that Lord Rodney himself at all times acknowledged the communication; and having from the first approved of my system, declared, even before he left London, that he would strictly adhere to it in fighting the enemy." Preface, pages 7 and 8.

Sir, I want words to express the emotions which I feel while I am copying this romance. What will be those of your readers when they are informed, and may, if they please, convince themselves, by an appeal to all the newspapers of the day, and to the testimony of a hundred officers now living, that so far was this scene from the possibility of having occurred in London in the month of January, 1780, that Admiral Rodney sailed from St. Helen's, with his whole fleet, on Saturday, the 25th of December, 1779?

With Mr. Clerk I have now done, truly sorry that the indiscretion of himself or his friends should in any degree tend to lessen the estimation of a work in many respects highly valuable. That he might have conceived this manœuvre without any communication from Lord Rodney I by no means deny; but I have often been assured by that brave officer himself, that it first occurred to him a considerable time before in France, during a conversation at the table of the Marechal de Biron,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

SCRUTATOR.

P. S. I do not wish to have my name publicly mentioned; but I believe that neither my opportunities of accurate information, nor my veracity, will admit of any question with you.

A GOOD WIFE CHARACTERISED.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

WE have lately heard much of a "Search for a Wife"—certainly a very important object of pursuit, and one which, were human affairs conducted more by reason than by accident, would occupy the serious attention of all who have the choice yet to make. In the search alluded to, the object is of a peculiar kind, a sort of figure cut out after a pattern existing in the mind of the supposed seeker, and fashioned according to particular rules and principles. And doubtless, individually considered, many points of conformity are requisite for producing that suitableness on which the perfection of matrimonial felicity depends. But abstractedly regarded, as one of the general blessings of domestic life, a good wife ought to be characterised by qualities which may be expected to be discoverable upon due enquiry in every country where man resides, and under every system of speculative opinion. These qualities are such as render her a faithful, useful, and agreeable associate in all the circumstances and vicissitudes of the human condition; and being essential to that relation, must be always and every where the same. To represent, therefore, the virtues of a wife as exclusively connected with certain modes of belief, or certain theoretical foundations of morality, is to throw the greatest part of mankind out of the possibility of obtaining what is so necessary to their felicity; which is surely little compatible with our ideas of the wisdom and benevolence of Providence. If, to a firm persuasion of the obligation to perform the conjugal duties, be added an habitual acquaintance with those duties, and a temper to fulfil them with cheerfulness and goodwill, I do not see what more in a general view can be requisite to characterize a good wife; and to limit the searcher to particular sects or creeds in his pursuit of this blessing, is to subject him to unnecessary difficulties.

There is in old Plautus a sketch of a wife (one, too, of high rank) which appears to me a valuable document of the sentiments then prevalent respecting female excellence in the married state. It is in his "Amphitruo," where Alcumena is made thus to address her husband:

Non illam mihi dotem duco esse, quæ dos dicitur,
Sed pudicitiam, & pudorem, & sedatum cupidinem,
Deum metum, parentum amorem, & cognatum concordiam,
Tibi morigera, atque ut munifica sim bonis, prosim probis.

Act ii. Sc. 2.

"I do not reckon that my dower which is commonly so called; but chastity, and modesty, and sedate desires, fear of the Gods, love to parents, and concord with kindred; to be compliant towards you, bounteous to the good, serviceable to the worthy."

Here

Here are the true female virtues, formed by habit and strengthened by religion, allied with conjugal duty, and general benevolence—and what more can be numbered among the moral essentials? This is the Good Wife of all countries from Britain to Japan; and a *searcher* in any of these countries, not already caught by the eye, but capable of a sober and deliberate choice, may hope to find her.

Yours, &c.

COSMUS.

PRESENT STATE OF HAYTI.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

THE following translation of a letter from St. Domingo gives so different an account of what has generally been supposed to be the moral and domestic situation of the black population of that island, that, deeming it worthy of publication, I have taken the liberty of transmitting it to you, for insertion in your miscellany. Allowance must be made for the comparative situation of the writer, who was a French emigrant priest, residing in London, and barely supporting existence upon the most scanty means, and who was engaged by General Christophe's agent to repair to St. Domingo, under brilliant promises of advantage and preferment. These prospects appear to have been fully realised. The amazing contrast between his former and present situation would of course produce a disposition to eulogize the latter perhaps beyond its deserts; but as he is a man of whom I can say, for I had the honour of a personal acquaintance with him, that to great intelligence he adds a true sacerdotal integrity and meekness, though his colouring may be high, I have no doubt of the correctness of his delineation.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

S. H. W.

22d January, 1809.

I have made no alteration in the style or arrangement, that the disjointed currency of a familiar letter to a friend may remain more apparent.

Cape Francois, 9th November, 1808.

I arrived here, my dear friend, in safety and in excellent health on the 29th of September. My passage was very agreeable. I am now vicar of the town of Cape Francois, and I reside in the same house with the reverend father the apostolical prefect. Half of the benefice is mine. A moiety of that half is what I give for my board, &c. We have five women and two men servants, besides a coachman, and
we

we keep eight horses. The Prince of Wales could not live better than we do. I am just returned from a parochial visit to one of our dependencies, about thirteen *lieues** from this place, where I was received with open arms, and in the most flattering manner. The prefect with whom I have the pleasure to live, I may say, is really beloved throughout the island. His manners are most pleasing and mild, and I cannot but be satisfied with my ministry here. I have to exercise my sacerdotal functions in the midst of a people who would pass through burning coals to prove their attachment to their religion.

The manner of living here is exactly in the French style. In reality, all here, both in the first and second rank, are extremely well mannered. For my own part, though I am in the midst of the most perfect abundance, I continue to live with my accustomed frugality, and I enjoy an excellent state of health. There is more amusement and more enjoyment of life here in one day, than in London in a year. The creole ladies are not inferior in the elegance of their dress to those of Europe the most attached to fashion. The black ladies dress also extremely well, and do the honours of their houses with much decorum. All wear a profusion of ornaments of the finest gold. Music and dancing are amusements that are pursued with eagerness and enthusiasm.

General Christophe, the president of Hayti, governs with great wisdom and economy. I assure you that he is really beloved by his people. He is renowned for his probity; he does not owe a penny. He makes his troops respect the properties of the planters. His soldiers are well disciplined and well commanded, and all his officers are real gentlemen. This city is very handsome, and regularly built. It has yet some ruinous parts that want repairing. The houses are large and commodious. Our ordinary breakfasts consist of eight or ten dishes of fish, poultry, pastry, and confectionery; after which we have coffee and *liqueurs*. Breakfasts of ceremony are, indeed, sumptuous, and cannot be compared to any thing of the kind in Europe. Notwithstanding the low price of the articles of which they are composed, they cost twenty-five louis d'ors. After breakfast, play or music fills up the time till dinner, which is served up at five o'clock in a still more magnificent manner; and play and dancing conclude the day. It is the language of truth I speak, when I assure you that this island is a terrestrial Paradise. There are numerous herds of wild hogs, and an innumerable quantity of wood-pigeons. A turtle of two hundred pounds weight costs three dollars. The poultry are exquisite. Wax and honey are in an abundance of which you can form no conception. Every species of sea and river fish natural to the climate are most excellent, particularly the eels. Guinea-fowls and ducks

* It is uncertain whether the writer here means French or English miles. Having long resided in England, and acquired many ideas in this country, it is probable he means the latter.

ducks are much superior to those in England. The arts of cookery and confectionery are carried in this city to the highest degree of perfection. The art of jewellery is also very perfect. We have a good many carpenters, saddlers, very good boot and shoe-makers, builders, excellent cabinet-makers, &c.

I was enraptured to view the richness of the soil ; it is unheard of, and certainly laughs to scorn the fertility of every other. Mahogany may be had for almost nothing, and is beautifully manufactured. Lime for building is the best in the world ; it is made from a stone nearly approaching to marble. The Spanish part of the island, which borders upon this, is upon friendly terms with Christophe. It is thence that we receive the best tobacco and snuff. It was from St. Jago, near Fort Dauphin, that the royal family of France got their snuff, and it is this sort that we make use of. Tobacco for smoking, both from St. Jago and the island of Cuba, is excellent. We have immense quantities of cows, oxen, and goats. The horses are good, and their keep scarcely costs any thing. The cabbage-palm is a most exquisite article of food.

A considerable number of merchants and tradesmen already resort to this city—Irish, Germans, Americans, and *ci-devant* French. If you are desirous of forming a mercantile establishment here, lose no time. I could just now get you a very large dwelling-house, for no other rent than the obligation to keep it in repair ; but this arises from a particular circumstance, and otherwise, or at a later period, you would have to pay from 7 to 9,000 livres of rent per annum. Timber for building, mortar, lime, labourers' wages, and shingles are very cheap. We flatter ourselves that we shall shortly again see American ships here, as it is believed that the French influence in that country has fortunately been dissipated. The trade of St. Domingo, Hispaniola,* and Cuba has, however, very little in common with England. Except a few of your manufactures, English goods are too dear ; and the principal supply of European articles for the consumption of this country ought to be drawn from Germany and Holland, when emancipated from the yoke of the French, from along the Rhine, and from Switzerland. It is only, however, in the breast of Providence, when any communication can be opened with those countries, or when foreign flags may be able to frequent the ports of France. From the latter country, even now, wines, which are much wanted here, might be got through the smugglers of Guernsey and Jersey. The merchants of Cape François, as well as those of the Spanish islands, and even of the English Antilles, are entirely destitute of German goods. Russian and German linens, particularly the cheapest kinds, are much wanted. Small looking-glasses in cases, and other similar cheap articles from Germany, would sell well. Coffee in good condition costs here five dollars

* By distinguishing St. Domingo and Hispaniola, the writer probably meant to denote the French and Spanish parts of the island.

dollars per hundred pounds, Paris weight. Cotton is to be had for almost nothing, that is, for five or six sols.* Cocoa is at the same price as coffee.

M * * * * * had informed me that we should have salaries as under the ancient establishment. These were large, but there are none under the present regulation. Nevertheless, as every thing is regularly fixed by the church, our income, by the union of seventeen subordinate cures to that of the Cape, is such that we are perfectly satisfied, and have nothing to desire on that head. We are, I believe, very near the time when the Pethion party will be entirely destroyed; it is expiring, and its annihilation would contribute much to the general prosperity of the island.

It is by the way of North America that I write to you. Adieu, assure you I am happy and contented. Respects, &c.

* Per pound, suppose.

CRITICAL CORRECTIONS.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

IN Dr. Shaw's late additional volumes to his valuable work on Zoology, I observe notice taken of a ludicrous mistake of Mons. Montbeillard, the coadjutor of Buffon, respecting the meaning of the English word *scent*. He says, "The authors of the British Zoology alone assert that the Raven has an agreeable smell; which is difficult to believe of a bird that feeds on carrion;" and Dr. Shaw finds that this supposed assertion is derived from Mr. Pennant's remark on ravens, that "their scent is remarkably good." It must be confessed (proceeds Dr. Shaw) that the above observation of Mons. Montbeillard affords an admirable instance of critical acumen!!!"

Now I cannot but think that the Doctor is here somewhat too hard upon that respectable French naturalist, who has betrayed, indeed, in one instance, a want of perfect acquaintance with English idiom, but in a nice point, in which mistake was very easy. For the more common and proper use of *scent* is as he understood it; and if it had been applied to a flower, his interpretation would have been perfectly right. Had he even consulted Johnson's Dictionary, he would only have found one instance quoted of *scent* used for the power of smelling, and that, an equivocal one; whereas there are several decisive ones for its use as *odour* or the *object of smell*. Indeed, I cannot but think that the application of the word to the action of following by the smell is rather a sportsman's technical anomaly, than a legitimate meaning. At least, the ignorance of it in a foreigner scarcely concludes against his "critical acumen," generally speaking.

I remember an odd instance of misapprehension of a French translator,

lator, mentioned by Dr. Priestley, of which he was candid enough to take the blame upon himself. In one of his works on factitious airs, he had referred to "the experiment of the Black Hole," meaning the horrid prison of Calcutta, familiar to us under that appellation. His French translator (as he afterwards told the Doctor) could make nothing of this expression, but rendered it literally "le trou noir," without understanding what it meant; and Dr. P. agreed with him that it was scarcely possible he should have comprehended it.

I must beg leave to advert to another instance in which Dr. Shaw appears to have been too hasty in his censure. Buffon, it seems, has been accused by a German critic of adopting the vulgar error, that the birds of Paradise have no legs, and Dr. S., though he softens it off to a "lapsus calami," seems to admit the charge of error. Yet, from the words of Buffon which he cites in a note, there appears to be no error at all; for that celebrated naturalist only ranks these birds among those "qui ne peuvent prendre de mouvement qu'en volant." Now Dr. S. himself, in the next page, mentions as a recorded observation, that the Paradise-birds, on account of the peculiar structure of their feathers, are not able to rise after settling on the ground; which is exactly the import of Buffon's words.

I do not, Mr. Editor, make these remarks to disparage a work which I think highly deserving of the public favour from its accuracy and elegance; but merely as a warning against rash animadversions, and for the purposes of literary justice.

Yours, &c.

CAUTUS.

ROYAL JESTERS, &c.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

I SEIZE the earliest opportunity of correcting a mistake, which, though intrinsically of trivial importance, might render impeachable one part at least of the account of the Patrician Dance at Augsburg, inserted in your last. You will find that I have there mentioned Cuntz von de Rosen, to whom I had already alluded on a former occasion, amongst those whose merriment is recorded as having given zest to the celebration of that singular festival: now it was not this Cuntz, but his descendant, Lung von de Rosen, Jester to Maximilian the Second, whom the inscriptions rescue from total oblivion. In respect to the latter personage, I know not whether he inherited the inflexible fortitude and staunch loyalty of his ancestor; but of this I am certain, that, degrading as might have been the office, and contemptible as may appear the character, of the royal jesters or court buffoons of former ages, in many instances they have proved themselves the most steadfast and enlightened of counsellors, scorning alike
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the servility of parasitical courtiers and the hypocrisy of time-serving politicians. It may, indeed, be questioned, whether sovereigns ever possessed more faithful servants than their jesters; for they, being personally indebted, and therefore individually attached to their monarchs, shared with them both the smiles and frowns of fortune. When silence bound the tongue of sober counsellors, the grinning mouth would babble unrestrained; when self-interest closed the lips of venal sycophants, or self-will steeled the hearts of hood-winked greatness, then, and then only, found truth a shelter beneath the tinkling cap. There are not wanting instances in which the Fool has snatched his master from destruction; nor others, in which his ready wit has proved more salutary than the prosing arguments of wary counsellors.

For the justness of these observations, I shall at present content myself with citing the example of Cuntz von der Rosen, who, in 1488, when Maximilian was kidnapped by the Flemings at Brügge, risked his own life to save that of his master.* To this trait permit me to add another of a different complexion, which does no less honour to the prince than to his jester.

The Venetian ambassadors, on a certain occasion, presented the emperor with a magnificent salver of crystal, which was at that time esteemed a great rarity. Maximilian having ordered it to be placed on a table, covered with cloth of damask, Cuntz designedly entangled his spur in such a manner with the cloth, that he threw the salver down, and shattered it to pieces. This untoward circumstance the more enflamed the ambassador's resentment, as it appeared to them the result of premeditated insult; and they called upon the emperor to inflict signal punishment on his jester. "*My good friends (said Cuntz) the thing was mere glass; had it been made of gold or silver, it could never have been broken; or the fragments, at least, might have turned to some account!*" Maximilian smiled, and his faithful jester went unpunished! Would to heaven, that in modern courts such honest and enlightened Fools were still in office; then might we not exclaim with Lear,

And my poor fool is hang'd! No, no, no life.
Why should a dog, a horse, a rat have life,
And thou, no breath at all? O thou wilt come no more,
Never, never, never, never, never!

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

S.

London, 9th March, 1809.

* The story of this heroic act is so long, that, much as it would have gratified my feelings to render it more generally known, I could not prevail upon myself to impose its detail on your kind indulgence and the patience of your readers, both of which may have been already exhausted by my prolixity.

P.S. I should feel myself greatly indebted to any of your correspondents who could give me a particular account of the Collection of English Chroniclers, published by *H. Commelin* at Heidelberg in 1587, folio. The works I have been hitherto consulting allude in general terms only to that Collection.

SALISBURY SERVICE BOOK. KNIGHTHOOD.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

Sir,

IN the account of the Salisbury Service Book, given in the Athenæum for August last, it was said, that the service more particularly characteristic of the times is that for pilgrims and knights going to Jerusalem or any other place. A visit paid since that time to Salisbury recalled my thoughts to the Service Book: with your permission, therefore, I will continue my observations on that Book, at least on the services in it alluded to above: for they will be found explanatory of the language of some of our poets, who speak conformably to the costume of our ancestors.

But before speaking of those services it should be observed, that such as took on them the order of knighthood, previously to the solemn service of the church, underwent investiture, at which time an oath was administered, and various ceremonies were performed, of which the principal was this: The prince drew his sword, and gently struck with it the shoulder of the candidate, while on his knees, at the same time saying these words in French—*Sas, or sois un Chevalier au nom de Dieu.* “Rise or be a Knight in the name of God.” After investiture, the knight proceeded to the church.

The service, according to this book, was performed thus: The Cavalier approached the altar on his bended knees, in the habiliments of his order, and the Deity was supplicated in behalf of the knight, newly girt with the military sword, *that he might become victorious over all his enemies, and succeed in defence of holy church*, which among other things more particularly alludes to the wars against the Saracens, to deliver the Holy Land from the hands of infidels, as is more openly expressed in the services for pilgrims. The sword was then, during the prayer, signed with the cross, and the priest girded the knight with it, and the Cavalier, so apparelled, with his sword and all his habiliments, was sprinkled with holy water.

Thus it was then that religious zeal became a part of the military profession: and thus the knight is represented by Chaucer in his Prologue to the Canterbury Tales.

*A knyght there was, and that a worthy man,
That fro the time that he first began*

To

To ryden out, he loved chevalrye,
 Trouthe, honour, fredom, and curtesye.
 Ful worthy was he in his Lordes warre,
 And therto had he rydden no man farre,
 As well in Chrystendome, as in Hethenesse,
 And ever had honour for his worthynesse.

And after enumerating the places where he had a *noble armye*, and had *foughten for our fayth*, he closes by adding,

For he was latey come fro his vyage,
 And wente for to don his pylgrymage.

These ideas, originating in feudal manners, and extended by the religious enthusiasm of the times, are fairly interwoven into the very thread of the first part of Spenser's *Fairy Queen*, entitled, *THE RED-CROSS KNIGHT*. For though, by a sort of Germinant sense, (to borrow an expression of Lord Bacon's*) the *Fairy Queen* was intended as a compliment to Queen Elizabeth, yet, in the adventures of the Knight, the character and relation of Una, and the enemies that are encountered, we perceive readily enough, whence his principal characters, and the principal part of his imagery are derived; and how mystically the whole is managed. Thus of his *lovely Lady* he says,

— She by descent from royal lynage came
 Of ancient Kinges and Queenes, that had of yore
 Their scepters stretcht from East to Western shore,
 And all the world in their subjection held;
 Till that infernall fiend with foule uprore
 Forwasted all their land, and them expel'd:
 Whom to avenge, she had this Knight from far compel'd†

And in the Knight's engaging and vanquishing Sans Foy and Sans Joy, Saracens,‡ and other similar encounters, we perceive branching parts of the same system.

We may see in Olaus Magnus, and Wieland's *Oberon*, how full of charms and enchantments the northern mythology was; and from the Arabian Nights Entertainments, the delight of our childhood, we may learn that they were not less powerful in the East. The expedient, then, of Christian priests, was dextrous and effective, and they beat the infidels with their own weapons. What talisman had they equal to a consecrated cross hung about the neck of a pilgrim and knight by the hand of a priest? What charm so transcendant as a shield and a sword, sprinkled over with holy water?

The

* The public may be congratulated, that Mr. Payne, the bookseller, has lately published a *pocket* edition of this invaluable work, Lord Bacon on the Proficiency and Advancement of Learning.

† B. i. Canto 1. v. 5. of the *Fairy Queen*.

‡ 2d and 4th Cantos of the 1st Book.

The ceremony of presenting a garment with a consecrated cross is mentioned in the *Service of Pilgrims*, which precedes that of the *Blessing of the Knight's Sword*. We may therefore suppose either that Spenser's Red-Cross Knight had both services performed over him at the same time, or that at least he had received a consecrated cross, a cross blessed with holy water, from the hands of a priest; for he is represented by these words:

And on his brest a bloudie crosse he bore,
The dear Remembrance of his dying Lord,
For whose sweete sake *that glorious badge* he wore,
And dead as living ever him ador'd,
Upon his shield the like was also scor'd.*

What a most powerful talisman this cross was supposed to be, we learn, as from various other parts of the Red-Cross Knight, so more particularly from the words of the Saracen.

Curse on that crosse, quoth then the Sarazin,
That keepes thy body from the bitter fit,
Dead long ygoe I wote thou haddest bin,
Had not *that charm* from thee forewarned it.†

That the benediction* of the priest had an influence on water, so as to render it holy, was the ancient belief of this country, long before the Conquest, as may be gathered from the sermons of Abbot Ælfric, who speaking of the *Halige fant Waeter*, or, the Holy Font Water, says, even so the Holy Font Water, that is called the Well-Spring of life, is like in shape to other waters, and is subject to corruption; but the Holy Ghost's might cometh to the corruptible water, *Thurh Sacerda blessinge, through the priest's blessing*.

This celebrated poem of the Fairy Queen, as Bishop Hurd has well shewn,‡ is to be examined on the principles of such writings as admit double senses. Of Spenser's two senses, the one refers to the reign and person of Queen Elizabeth, as appears throughout the poem; the other to times, much anterior, and more barbarous, as Spenser well explains it, on presenting the Fairy Queen to Lord Ormond and Ossory, thus:

Receive, most noble Lord, a simple taste
Of the wild fruit, which salvage soil has bred,
Which being thro' long wars left almost waste
With brutish barbarisme is overspredd.

A representation, that is the only true key to this allegorical and mysterious

* The Legend of the Red Crosse Knight, Canto i.

† Red Crosse Knight, Canto ii. St. 18.

‡ See his Letters on Chivalry and Romance, at the end of his Dialogues.

terious poem: and even with this key it is difficult to reconcile some parts. However, we should examine it on its own pretensions; and we shall then find, that Spenser has in the main kept in view Horace's direction.

Respicere exemplar vitæ moresq. monebo
Doctum imitorem.

Hor. Ars Poet.

and the Fairy Queen will be found to receive illustration in some of the doctrines taught in Queen Elizabeth's reign, but principally in feudal manners and the religious enthusiasm of much earlier times: and to these the church ceremonies gave the force of a charm, and all the influence of inspiration.

(To be continued.)

London, March, 1809.

G. DYER.

COLLECTANEA OXONIENSIA; OR, LETTERS TO AND FROM
EMINENT PERSONS, FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE
BODLEIAN LIBRARY.

*Curious Account of James the Second's Visit to Oxford, and the Affairs
of Magdalen College.*

Dr. SYKES to Dr. CHARLETT.

Sept. 4, [16] 87.

Sir,

This comes to convey the enclosed, which I suppose will be welcome, and you must not expect that I should enlarge. The King on Friday was received at the utmost bounds of the county by my Lord Abbingdon, and the Sheriff and gentlemen of the county, and yesterday by the Vice Chancellor and twenty-four Doctors, the Proctors, and nineteen Masters, all in Proctor's habits, at the farther end of St. Giles's field, and nearer to the town, by the Mayor and Aldermen and all the Common Council, on horse-back, and by all the Companies on foot. Mr. Vice Chancellor made a speech to him, at his meeting him, in Latin, for which he gave him thanks. And at the Dean of Christ Church's lodgings, where he lies, all the scholars who rode out kissed his hand, and so did Mr. Hunt, though he was not of the number. Of our College, Dr. Fry and Mr. How rode out. This morning the King touches* in Ch. Ch. Quire; hears one Father Hall this morning at the new Popish Chapel there; but whether he will be there in the afternoon, or at University College, I know

* For the king's evil.

know not. Dr. Brady is well arrived, and has the use of your chamber, and lies in Mr. Napier's. We drank your health last night. He tells me he thinks the Progress does not turn to account. The Bishop of Oxford had a grant of Mrs. Houghton for our President's lodgings, but his indisposition suffers not to come as yet. This is all trivial, I know; but you must take such as I have. If there be any news, it will be to-morrow. I thank you most heartily for your letter by Mr. Marshall, and take the small acquaintance I have with him for a great favour both from you and him. I cannot defer writing till afternoon, nor enlarge more now.

I am, Sir, yours as formerly.

The King will be entertained to-morrow by the University in the Public Library, and then, if at all, there will be a convocation.

From the same to the same.

Sept. 7, [16] 87.

Kind Sir,

My last told you that the King sent away the Magdalen College Fellows, commanding them to go and immediately chuse the Bishop of Oxford for their President, else they should feel the weight of his displeasure; but now it goes currently that he said they should feel the heavy hand of a king, and last of all, upon his recalling them, that if they did not obey, they should feel the vengeance of an angry prince. He refused to hear them speak, or to receive any petition from them, telling them that he had known them to be a turbulent and factious society for this twenty years and above. The same night (that is, Sunday night) they gave in all their answers severally in writing. There were twenty upon the place, and nineteen of them all to the same purpose, that they could not in conscience comply in this case. Only one gave a dubious answer, which was either Mr. Thompson, or he that publicly made mention of *the undoubted President of Magdalen College*. On Monday morning Mr. Penn rode down to Magdalen College, just before he left this place, and after some discourse with some of the Fellows, wrote a short letter, directed *To the King*. In it, in short, he wrote to this purpose—that their case was hard, and that in their circumstances they could not yield obedience without breach of their oaths; which letter was delivered to the King. I cannot learn whether he did this upon his own free motion, or by command, or intercession of any other. The King was entertained at a banquet, between ten and eleven, in the Public Library, after which he took occasion, as he was going out, to speak a considerable time to the Vice Chancellor and the rest who were nigh him. The substance of what he said was in commendation of love, charity, humility, &c. and amongst other things said, it had been taken

taken notice that some of us had been something proud. He also recommended preaching without book, and several other things much to the same purpose to what was delivered the day before in Canterbury Hall by Father Hall, and held forth by Mr. Penn at Silas Norton's, as was said by some who had been their auditors. On Sunday night he discoursed with the Vice Chancellor about printing, and the books which came forth here, complaining of some things written in books of controversy; to which the Vice Chancellor replied, that there was a press here that printed unlicensed books, and upon demand whose it was, he answered Mr. Walker's, and he hoped that if he had the liberty to print books without licence, we might have the liberty to answer them, and that it could not be expected but that it would be so. To which the King said, that this was but reasonable; but asked how the mischief might be prevented; to which it was answered by the Vice Chancellor, that the best way he thought was, to suppress Mr. Walker's press, for the University did not begin, and would be quiet if it was not provoked. Upon this the King said, he thought it was a good expedient. But notwithstanding this, I hear that Mr. Walker hath finished another book, and that it was presented to the King after Vespers at University College one Sunday; but it is not yet published, and I cannot learn the title of it. We had no convocation on Monday, neither are any degrees granted; but there was a paper on Monday morning delivered into the Vice Chancellor's hands, but not signed by the King or any other, wherein Mr. Collins and Mr. Wicking were named to be Doctors of Divinity, and Mr. Brookes, a *fellow-commoner* of St. Mary Hall, to be B. of L. L., and the messenger who brought this asked the Vice Chancellor if he would give them their degrees, saying, that he delivered the paper by order from the King; to which he answered, that the King had not mentioned a word of any such matter to him. If the King commanded, he would *do his part*; but it was not in his power to grant this. He heard no more while the King staid in town; but since, I hear, Mr. Collins hath been with him to know whether it will be done or not. And I am not certain whether he will grant a convocation or not, that they may try their fortunes. The Vice Chancellor* hath much pleased the University by his prudent behaviour in all things, and I hear the King was pleased to say he was an honest blunt man.

Sir George Pudsey made a speech to the King, when he was met by the city, wherein he much magnified his prerogative, saying to this purpose, that the laws were the grants of princes, and revocable at pleasure; that his Majesty, who knew the concerns of the meanest corporation in his dominions, could not be ignorant that this loyal corporation was influenced by *others*, otherwise they had addressed as well as others. I have, Sir, as truly as I can, represented these things to you as to the main, but you must not imagine that I can answer as to all the words. Therefore pray do not relate them as certain truths;
you

* Gilbert Ironside, D. D. Warden of Wadham College.

you know how far expressions vary upon a second or third relation. Mr. Porter gives his service to you, and desires to know when you return; so do I, assuring you that you will be most welcome to,

Sir, yours most faithfully as formerly.

From the same to the same.

Sir,

Since my last I descended to minutenesses, supposing that I might relate all things more truly; but I find that in many things there is no faith in history. The word *unlicenced*, in the business concerning the press, was not used (as I thought it ought not to be, when I wrote it to you); but I kept to the words of my author as near as I could. Other things as to the main were as you had them from me; but there were many things omitted, and one remarkable, which is, that the King told the Vice Chancellor, that the Church of England-men were his only enemies; to which he replied, that none of them were for the Bill of Exclusion; to which nothing was returned. The discourse that Penn had with some of the Fellows of Magdalen College, and the letter mentioned in my last, produced a petition, which was subscribed by all the Fellows, and given to my Lord Sunderland, who promised to present it to the King. It was thought by some of that society that three or four of their Fellows, after their converse with Mr. Penn, talked very coldly of their concerns, which gave occasion for suspicion that they had promised to comply in some measure; but the truth of this cannot certainly be known till there shall be a trial. The President, I suppose, is gone to London this day; I am sure last night he intended to go. The business of Mr. Penn, I suppose, occasioned his leaving the College; and if it must be, he had rather be deserted absent than present. Pray you keep this to yourself; may be he will not be forsaken at all. He that gave the dubious answer, mentioned in my last, was the author of *undoubted President*. Mr. Thompson was not in town at that time. The Vice Chancellor will not grant a convocation for Mr. Collins, &c. till he hath an answer from the Chancellor, whom he hath consulted in this business. Christ Church and University College are cited to bring in their statutes, and all other writings that concern their foundations, to the Commissioners on the sixth of October next. If I had known as much when I wrote last as I do now, I might have saved my pains; but my inclinations to serve you put me upon unnecessary undertakings, and such to which I am not accustomed, and therefore if I fall short of your expectations, I hope you will pardon the well-meant officiousness of

Sept. 9, [16] 87.

Dear Sir, yours unfeignedly.

CLASSICAL DISQUISITIONS.

HERODOTUS.

THE chief object of Herodotus in the composition of his history, as stated by himself, was to record the great actions of Greeks and Barbarians, and to develop the sources, and describe the progress and events of their enmity. The period of history to which his attention is principally directed, extends from the accession of Cyrus, to the battles of Plataea and Mycale, and the expulsion of the Persians from Greece, comprizing about eighty years. Yet he does not pursue this subject in a regular series of narration, but diversifies it with frequent digressions relative to the affairs of contemporary states and nations, as Lydia, the Grecian cities of Asia, Egypt, Scythia, and Macedonia. Nor is he satisfied with brief and hasty sketches of the countries to which the tenor of his narrative conducts him, but he enters into elaborate descriptions of their climate, soil, and the other distinctions of nature, and discusses with equal care the still more important subjects of their arts, antiquities, manners, and institutions. Such is the long digression which he devotes to the affairs of Egypt, and which he introduces on occasion of the invasion of that country by Cambyses the Persian king. It occupies the whole of the second book, and though intermixed with much apparent fiction, supplies also much useful and interesting information respecting the ancient state of that remarkable country. At the beginning of the third book he resumes the narration which was suspended at the conclusion of the first. Other digressions of this nature, though of less extent, frequently occur in the earlier parts of the work; while the latter books relate, in a tolerably regular order, the events of the Persian wars under Darius and Xerxes.

It is evident that a plan of this kind must be somewhat deficient in unity of subject. It has accordingly been objected to the work of Herodotus, that it is little more than a miscellany, in which the historian has recorded the various information which in the course of his enquiries he had been able to procure, respecting the nations which were chiefly distinguished in his own age, and whose history he undertook to illustrate, and that the result of his researches is communicated, always, perhaps, with fidelity, but with various degrees of caution and discrimination. On the other hand, the admirers and apologists of the historian, who have been numerous and able, assert that the happy construction of his plan has not been discerned by those who charge it with confusion, that it combines in a luminous and natural arrangement, a great variety of narrative and description, which a less skilful writer would not have been able to unite; in short, that the

first of historians took the chief of poets for his model; that like him, he carries his readers at once into the midst of events, and without injuring the distinctness of the grand and simple outline of his subject, introduces with admirable art, many subordinate and remotely connected objects.*

A defence like this probably concedes much of what an adversary would demand. It can scarcely be conceived that the plans of the epic poet and historian should be founded on the same principles. Their methods should seem to be not less distinct than their objects. The chief aim of the former is to please, that of the latter to instruct. The one labours to arrange his events in that order which shall combine them most closely into a simple whole, rising by just gradations to higher degrees of interest, and terminating in some complete catastrophe to which the whole of the preceding machinery is preparatory and subservient. The order of the other is marked out by nature, nor is he permitted to deviate from it for the purpose of representing the events which he relates in more striking points of view. His higher object is to trace the connections of human affairs, the origin and tendency of enterprizes, and the operation of moral causes. That Herodotus has imitated Homer, could the fact be proved, would scarcely be a circumstance that could entitle him to the praise of a consummate historian.

His design must, however, be admitted to be formed with considerable skill. The work has a flowing tenor, with an intermixture, not unpleasing, of description and narrative, and the attention of the reader is kept awake by the succession of scenes and events. But early history was poetry; and if the panegyrics of some of the warmest admirers of Herodotus be well founded, his work must rather be judged to form the link between poetry and history, than to be a perfectly legitimate historical composition. In another, and, perhaps, a more correct view, the structure of his subject may be compared to that adopted by Gibbon, whose work has been called, not without propriety, a series of historical essays, rather than a history.

In the reflections which the events related sometimes suggest to the historian, he seems desirous to inculcate maxims of a moral, rather than a political tendency. The agency which seems chiefly to impress his mind, is that of a jealous divinity, always interposing to repress the insolence of pride, and to precipitate nations and individuals from the summit of prosperity and greatness. "After the departure of Solon," he observes, "a signal chastisement of divine vengeance fell upon Croesus, for this reason, as we may conjecture, that he thought himself the most fortunate of men."—"You see," says Artabanus to Xerxes, "that God strikes with his thunder the greatest animals, nor suffers them to display their power, while the lowly give him no offence

* This hypothesis is maintained by M. Geinoz, in one of three memoirs in defence of Herodotus, inserted in vols. xix. xxi. xxiii. of the *Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Inscriptions*.

fence. You see that he always throws his bolts on the loftiest edifices and trees, for he loves to abase every thing pre-eminent. Thus a numerous army is destroyed by one of inferior force; when the deity, jealous of its greatness, spreads a panic through its ranks, or terrifies them with the sound of his thunder, they perish in a manner unworthy of themselves. For the divinity suffers nothing but himself to entertain lofty sentiments."

The style of Herodotus merits high praise. It derives a peculiar sweetness from the use of the Ionic dialect. It is flowing, full, perspicuous, unconstrained, and lively. The happy French term of *naïveté* is well applied to it by the old translator Amyot. In the expression of Plutarch, "without labour it flows over the surface of things, and applies itself to them."

A more serious enquiry affecting the character of Herodotus, is that which relates to his diligence and fidelity as an historian. "Apud Herodotum, patrem historiæ, sunt innumerabiles, fabulæ," observes Cicero. Nor has he escaped the oblique censure of the satirist.

Creditor olim
Velificatus Athos, et quicquid Graecia mendax
Audet in historiâ, &c.

The diligence of Herodotus can scarcely be questioned. He informs us that he visited various remote countries for the purpose of gaining instruction, and the accuracy and minuteness of his descriptions correspond to the assurance. In some instances which he records, not content with the first information which he received, from authorities which he deemed entitled to respect, he proceeded to distant places for the purpose of ascertaining its correctness. Modern travellers have borne a decisive testimony also to his faithfulness. "Were I to give my opinion of him," says Mr. Wood, as quoted by Major Rennell, "having followed him through most of the countries which he visited, I would say that he is a writer of veracity in his descriptions of what he saw, but of credulity in his relation of what he heard." The distinction appears to be just, and must strongly impress itself on every reader of Herodotus. What he relates on his own authority is usually credible, and is often attested by remaining monuments. He is careful in distinguishing where he speaks from his own observation, and where he rests on the veracity or judgment of others; and he sometimes leaves a subject which he esteems doubtful to the decision of his readers.

His geographical and historical knowledge will appear by no means contemptible, when we consider the age in which he lived. Rennell observes that his acquaintance with geography was in some respects both more accurate and extensive than that of later writers. "It is certain," observes that ingenious and learned geographer, "that Herodotus had a very positive, and in some degree circumstantial knowledge of the course of the river Niger, now by the discoveries recently made

made by Mr. Parke, shewn to be the same with the Joliba, or great inland river of Africa." Other instances to the same purpose are his belief of the circumnavigation of Africa, and his knowledge that the Caspian sea was a lake, believed by Strabo to be a gulf of the northern ocean.

A singular treatise of Plutarch is still extant, in which he attacks the good faith of our author, on different grounds from those which are obvious, and which have been most commonly assigned. The title of this piece is, a Discourse on the Malignity of Herodotus, in which the writer labours to prove, that under the influence of prejudice, the historian has taken pains to distort facts, for the purpose of representing them to the discredit of different states and individuals.

The account which Plutarch himself gives of the motive of this attempt, sufficiently indicates the degree of credit which is due to it. It is well known, and Herodotus has not concealed the fact, that during the attack of Greece by the Persians, the Bœotians, the ancestors of Plutarch, betrayed the common cause of their country, and afforded aid to the invaders. The circumstance is so indisputable that Plutarch himself has not dared openly to controvert it. Yet he assigns the display of what he terms the historian's malignity against the Bœotians and Corinthians, as the reason which induced him "to rise in defence of his ancestors and truth," and repel the calumnious assertions by which he has tarnished the glory of Greece. In pursuance of this design he lays down some rules respecting the duty of an historian, and then produces a great number of instances, in which he conceives Herodotus to have violated them. As no impression was, perhaps, ever made on the mind of a single reader by the arguments of Plutarch, it is unnecessary to enumerate or refute them. The task has been laboriously and sufficiently executed by different writers.

The work of Herodotus, if not a perfect specimen of historical composition, nor wholly free from idle tales of superstition and vulgar credulity, is, however, an invaluable repository of interesting information respecting ancient manners and remote events. Such are certainly the graces of the style, that it is not without reason that the Greeks have bestowed on his books the names of the Muses.

ACCOUNTS OF, AND EXTRACTS FROM, RARE AND
CURIOUS BOOKS.

HISTORIA DI CORFU, DESCRITTA DA ANDREA MARMARA,
NOBIL CORCIRESE.

Venetia, presso il Curti, 1672, 4to.

The author of this book (which is in itself a very handsome specimen of Venetian typography) is stated to have derived his descent (probably through the female line) from the imperial family of the Comneni. In 1115, the emperor Emanuel Comnenus advanced to the government of the island of Proconnesus John Comnenus, his kinsman; and in 1224, George Marmorà, the grandson of the same John Comnenus, was confirmed in the same honourable post by another Emanuel, despot, and duke of the Morea. The *letters patent*, in witness of this confirmation, are preserved in the original Greek language, at the head of the book. The house of Marmorà appears to have transplanted itself to Corfu, after Malvasia had been taken from Thomas Palæologus, despot of Morea, by the Turks, about the year 1462; and it remained settled there in great honour during the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries. During the latter part of the 17th, three brothers of the name of Marmorà particularly distinguished themselves; Antonio being the commander of a galley in the Venetian service at the battle of the Dardanelles in 1656; Spiridion enjoying another command in Candia during the Turkish war; and Andrea being employed, equally to his honour, in a high military office during the war about the Polesine of Ferrara. The same Andrea, when he retired from active life, sat down to compose that history of his native country from which I now proceed to give an extract, which, I trust, will not appear uninteresting to the readers of the Athenæum. It may be considered to be of some historical importance, as proving how much longer a taste for the ceremonies and amusements of chivalry maintained itself among the Italians than among most other people in Europe. The author is recording the transactions of the year 1599, at which time the island of Corfu was subject to the government of the Venetian republic.

The governor of the new citadel, during this year, was Romanello da Viterbo, a captain retained, on account of his valour, in the service of the republic, and, for the same reason, advanced to the defence of this important place. Now this man, who was commonly called Meo, being much exercised in jousts, which were, in those times, very frequent throughout Italy, wished to make trial if the Corfiotes were indeed so valorous as fame gave them credit. Games of this description, which sometimes turn on a sudden from jest to earnest, had not yet
found

found their way into Corcyra: only the nobles, by way of pastime, used to run at a wooden Moor or Saracen; and some of them were so powerful and dextrous at this sport, that they were able to bear four or even six lances to the mark, with extreme force, on the same career (che, impugnando quattro e sei lancia nella stessa carriera, colpiscono lo scopo con estremo vigore). But they had never opposed each other, man to man, in mimicry, reserving themselves to do so in earnest against the Turks whenever need should be, in defence of the true faith against the injuries of barbarians. Nevertheless, Meo (in an ill time for himself) took it into his head that he would introduce among them that sort of combat which, although it wear the appearance of pastime and diversion, is in no respect different from real war except in its motive; men engaging in the one through hatred, in the other only for the sake of honour. He challenged, therefore, the Corcyrese with a cartel, of which many copies were dispersed among the citizens, little disposed to bear the vaunts of a foreigner without an attempt to carry away from him the glory of which he boasted. The challenge was in words to this effect:

“The Chevalier *Tolmiro*, *Principe Netrisco*, being ambitious to render himself the image of the sun, who shines in every place alike, scattering his effulgent beams both over this hemisphere of ours and that other which is beneath our feet; after having made many other nations acknowledge the lustre of his fame, is now desirous of diffusing its brightness over the island of Corcyra. The Insubrian, the Ligurian, the Samnite, have all admired the invincible force of his lance; and the inhabitant of Crete has hidden himself in the labyrinths of confusion from the edge of his wonder-working sword. Latium and Greece have been spectators of scenes acted over and over on their coasts by one who has elevated admiration to the loud bursts of theatrical applause, and depressed opposition to the mournful accents of tragic woe. In fine, he, being become the rival and imitator of the greatest of the planets, has evinced under the arctic and antarctic pole the brightness of his generous actions, which now aspire to deck themselves with verdure stripped from the green hills of Phœacia, in the certain confidence of an entire victory. It is not fitting that this part of the world, wherein the sun of Tolmiro is, as it were, in its zenith, should alone be unenlightened by the splendour of his deeds. Wherefore he, being eager that the Phœacian knights should enjoy their share of his great benefits, invites you to meet the beams of his glory, to the end that, although the sun, already accustomed to the subjugation of the Pythons, will, without all doubt, cause you to fall into the ecliptic of the lists, still it will be your glory that it is by him ye are humbled, it being the greatest of boasts to say, that against him ye have dared to adventure yourselves in fight.”

Proud and pompous beyond measure did this challenge appear to the Corfiotes; but although they resolved that the lance should answer it duly, they thought it fitting to send their first answer by the pen; so that all may know how, like Cæsar, they were able to wield both
with

with equal dexterity, and that it may be said of them, as of him, *Ex utroque Corcyrenses*. Many were the cartels which were affixed upon this occasion; one only I think proper to cite, as being that composed by the knights who afterwards jousted with Meo. It was of the following tenour:

"Far from darting thine effulgence into our hearts, like the sun, oh Tolmiro! thou hast inflamed our souls with disdain by thy arrogant and boastful proposal, shewing it not so much the child of true courage as of a most foolish vain-glory. If thou beest, indeed, the sun, here stand we, who will know, like Joshua, how to arrest thee in the middle of thy course; or (that we may not incur the vice which we reprehend in thee) who will prove ourselves clouds to obscure the splendour of thy countenance. Corcyra, who put to flight the moon of Solyman, will not fear thy greater luminary—nay, this our island, in shape resembling the semicircular crescent, may be the cause of thine eclipse; for certain it is, that the moon doth oft times cause the eclipses of the sun. In the zodiac of the lists, thy sun will meet with its *Gemini*; since there are two of us ready to engage with thee whenever thou pleasest. Take heed that the house of the *Sagittary* prove not hurtful to thy splendour, nor compel thee to pass from the *Leo* of thy pride into the *Aries* of humility. The *balance* of a just vengeance awaits thee; but it would in truth grieve us shouldst thou afterwards melt into the *Aquarius* of tears or of blood. Our verdant plains need not thy beams to fertilize them, being enough enriched by the national fortitude of Corcyra; nor is Phæacia accustomed to receive splendour, but to impart it. Thy self-delusion will be more evident in the listed field wherein thy sun shall make our Parhelion shine the brighter."

Such was the cartel of Nicholas Lucani, a noble Corfiote, and of Nicholas Scliri, captain of cavalry, who afterwards both of them jousted with Meo; but he, some time before the appointed hour, walking with Lucani one day for recreation's sake, they came together to the place where lances were manufactured, when, casting his eyes upon them, and seeing that they were of a most immeasurable size, he said, "We are not accustomed in Italy to fight with such massive weapons;" whereupon Lucani answered, that, "according to the laws of combat, the challenger had choice of the field, but the challenged the choice of weapons." In truth, these lances were of exceeding greatness, as may be seen from one of them which is still preserved by some members of the house of Poliri, in memory of that encounter which redounded to the eternal glory of the Corcyrese.

Meanwhile the field was marked out in a plain below the city near the old castle, with all due form, under the orders of government; and two pavilions likewise were there erected, one for the judges and other illustrious personages, the other for the ladies; besides tents, for Meo, and for Lucani, and Scliri, of which the first was pitched in the space between the guard-house of the old castle and the council-

council-chamber; the second on a commanding eminence of the Belvedere, adjoining to the arsenal; as if they would draw a favourable omen of triumph from the capitol. The report of so famous an undertaking drew together not only all the islanders, but many persons also from the continent of Epirus and from the kingdom of Naples, who filled the whole of that vast space in such manner as to make it appear narrow and confined for the multitude of the spectators. On the 27th of February the jousts were appointed to commence; and on that day, at the earliest dawn of light, Meo displayed himself, accoutered in green armour with a surcoat of the same colour; the trappings of his horse were also green, and the animal himself, as if emulous of his master's towering plume of feathers, appeared by his velocity to carry feathers and wings in his feet. With many a curvet and bound of this noble courser, he passed the lists, preceded by trumpets and drums, and attended by one of the judges and many knights, to do him honour; for, excepting his pride, he was in all respects courteous and affable by nature. Many grooms, in superb liveries, led by the bridle other horses, to serve by way of relief whenever the first should be exhausted by the violence of the courses; and many servants, adorned with a thousand rich ornaments, were there, to render his appearance the more majestic. Nor slow in his approach was Lucani, who on the other side likewise advanced to the lists, accompanied by one of the judges and a right noble concourse of citizens. With musical instruments, horses, and other equipments, he differed in nothing from Meo; but in his dress he shewed a strong contrast, being habited in the guise of a nymph, so as to make good that which he had promised in his cartel, to conquer the sun by Corcyra, which is, in figure, like the moon. Underneath, indeed, he wore armour; but the steel of his corselet, covered with a female drapery, was not to be seen. On his head he wore a crown of laurel, in opposition to Meo, whose lively green seemed to be the hope of a victory; but the laurel of Lucani was the earnest of a triumph. Here, then, was an Omphale opposed to a Hercules, a Judith to a Holofernes. Bad is the omen; but we shall see it little different from the actual result as experienced by the Viterbian in his first encounter with Lucani, and in every respect answerable to that most unhappy trial which he will in the next place undergo with Scliri. The display being ended, each combatant retired to wait till the lists should be finally closed, so as to keep out the throng of spectators and serve as a guide to the courses of the knights. But no sooner did the awful sound of trumpets proclaim the appointed minute, than both were instantly in their saddles; Meo, however, was the first to reach the standard of his antagonist, and to strike with his sword upon the shield, in token of challenging him to the fight. The first career was run in vain; for Meo missed his aim, and Lucani, being unable to see his enemy clearly through the vizor of his helmet, which was too closely barred, suffered him to pass by without interruption. Great was the uproar, which could not be otherwise than swelled with the laughter of many
who

who were envious of Lucani's courage, and indignant at the arrogance of Meo, since it appeared that the actions of each were so little correspondent to their proud and vaunting promises. Not a few were the biting speeches, the sarcastic proverbs, produced by the occasion; at length, some words came to the ears of Lucani, which roused his passion and excited him to set his life at a hazard. He alighted from his horse, and called to his assistants to let down his vizor—they for some time resisted, but were forced to compliance by his resolute orders. Meo was, according to the rules of chivalry, invited to follow the example; but he not chusing to expose himself to such a risk, it rested with the Corfiot alone to run the second career with his face uncovered; upon which his friends and relations were unable to suppress their fears, lamenting him as one already dead, and weeping as if at the celebration of his funeral. Their exclamations of grief were soon, however, checked by the wonder of beholding Lucani safe from the encounter without a wound, while Meo was so stunned by a blow received in his forehead above the right eye, that he reeled from side to side upon his saddle, and would have fallen, but for those present who assisted him to dismount. The lance, which was shivered to pieces, was so large and stout, that I wonder not at Meo, who was so grievously hurt that he could not pursue the jousts any further at that time; so the prosecution of them was deferred to the ensuing morning.

The partizans on each side had ample leisure to discourse their fill concerning these events before the first blush of day which broke, like the herald of blood, among clouds of a sanguine hue; and soon giving place to the sun's appearance in the East, threatened the unhappy Meo with the extinction of his own vital luminary. The foolish people already counted the lagging hours in their impatience, when all the three knights appeared at one and the same time upon the field, pacing slowly along upon their coursers, which snorted and curvetted as they gallantly approached towards the lists. Still more sumptuous than on the former day was this second appearance of Lucani's, both for the number of his attendants and the variety of the warlike instruments by which he was accompanied. Again the trumpets sounded the charge, and the governor, Meo, commenced his third career against Lucani; when, in passing each other, his own lance was broken into splinters against the boards of the lists, and that of his adversary, glancing on his shoulder, carried off on its point a considerable piece of his armour; upon which, according to the laws of the tournament, Lucani had the honours of victory awarded him. Great and loud were the applauses showered from all quarters upon the fortunate champion, who instantly retreated to his own tent to make way for Scliri, who now appeared in the ring. But, at the very first charge between Meo and his new antagonist, the former unhappily received the point of Scliri's lance just in that place where the cuirass is joined to the shoulder-piece, with a deep and deadly wound; insomuch that, having been borne away with great difficulty to his own apartments,

he there expired a few days afterwards in convulsions. While yet alive, he was visited by all the nobility, and especially by Lucani, who insisted upon remaining constantly in attendance near his person, and received from Meo, as he well deserved, the acknowledgment that he was the most valiant and accomplished knight that ever bore arms; but Scliri, on the other hand, was much reproached for having held his lance too low, seeing that the combat was appointed only for the sake of honour and pastime, and not for mortal strife. Thus did he terminate his life, and soon after was honoured with interment in the Duomo Vecchio within the citadel; his funeral being attended by all the clergy, of the Greek communion as well as of the Roman, by the public representatives, the sindics, and all the nobility, carrying torches; insomuch that Meo who, when alive, boasted himself to be like the sun, had, like the sun, his setting and his departure amidst the splendour of a hundred lesser luminaries.

This misfortune of Meo proved a warning to Horace Delfino, his successor, to remain quiet all the days of his government; although, being a young man of great spirit, he took delight, equally with the deceased, in jousts and tournaments, which were at that time so very frequent throughout Italy—so that it was observed of him, during all his stay at Corfu, that he never once mounted a horse, or took any other kind of exercise which might have exposed him to the risk of a quarrel with the Corfiotes. Thus it is that example furnishes to men a lecture much more useful than the most learned discourses that were ever pronounced from the chair of an Aristotle or a Plato. One fact is of more weight than a thousand words; for these, the moment they are delivered, melt away into the air and are forgotten; but that always remains a mirror for the eye of reason to consult. So even brutes for the most part avoid the pit into which they have seen a companion fall; and we read of none but sheep and cattle that follow each other quietly to the slaughter.

MEMOIRS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

MEMOIR OF THE ABBE' BETTINELLI.

XAVIER BETTINELLI, the last meritorious individual of the celebrated order of Jesuits, and one of the greatest ornaments of Italy in the latter half of the 18th century, was born in Mantua, on the 18th July, 1718. His father was Jerome Bettinelli, descended from a Brescian family settled in Mantua: his mother was Paola Furgoni, of that city. He received his first instruction in his father's house; and, at the age of 14 (in 1732) he was sent to Bologna, to complete his studies, under the Jesuits. After being four years in the college
of

of those Fathers, in 1736 he took their habit, and went to Novellara, to perform his novitiate.

We are not informed whether, in that juvenile age, Bettinelli gave any specimen of those talents for which he was ever after distinguished. We are only told that, from the age of 22 to 25, he was teacher of belles' lettres in the school of his order at Brescia; and that, at the close of that period, he first evinced his genius and taste for poetry, as well as his extensive knowledge in the Greek, Latin, and French languages. In respect, indeed, to this last branch of pursuit, we have an evidence of his great attainments in the essay which the Count Algarotti addressed to him "on the Necessity of writing in our own Language."

The first office of great importance to which he was appointed in his order, was that of Director of the Academy of Young Noblemen in Parma: he remained in this station from 1748 to 1754, from the 30th to the 36th year of his age; during which period also we are informed by himself that he made several excursions in Italy, visiting Venice, Genoa, Florence, Rome, and Naples.

In the year 1751 he was advantageously brought into public notice by his excellent burlesque poem, "Le Raccolte" (the Collections). A practice utterly condemned by good sense, and bordering on ridicule, had long prevailed in Italy, that, on occasion of the birth, marriages, or deaths of eminent persons, collections of sonnets, songs, elegies, epigrams, &c. should be published in praise of the persons concerned in those events; and this practice, at the period to which the poem refers, had become so abusive, that very often entirely insignificant characters were made the subjects of Collections. The abuse called loud for a reform; and, indeed, so early as 1744, the noted satirical philosopher, the Abbe' Galiani, of Naples, had turned the collections into ridicule, by an unrivalled *jeu d'esprit*. Bettinelli, in his poem, did the same, with less humour and wit, but with better sense and greater delicacy. Both, however, proved unsuccessful; the practice continued to prevail, and we have reason to believe that it is not yet wholly abolished.

The year 1755 may not improperly be considered as the most remarkable of all in the literary life of the author, as it was then (in the 37th year of his life) that he published at Milan his "Poemetti," in blank verse. In the golden age of Italian literature, some of the poets who did the greatest honour to that age, being aware that rhyme was of Gothic and barbarous origin, and also that the modern vernacular language of Italy was in some measure capable of the metre of the Greek and Latin, had attempted to free Italian poetry from the slavery of rhyme. The attempts proved wholly unsuccessful in respect to lyric compositions: they were little successful in the lyric; but, for description and didactic poetry, they answered the purpose; witness the capital poems of Alamanni and Ruccellai. Towards the beginning of the 18th century, Marchetti, by his masterly (perhaps unrivalled) translation of Lucretius, had fully confirmed the experiment;

ment; so that, when a great revolution, by the natural progress of the human mind, was effected in poetry—when the epic and lyric compositions in the manner of the ancients were generally replaced by didactic, moral, and sentimental pieces of poetry—the Italians became sensible that blank verse would be preferable for these purposes; and this practice became one of the most prominent features of Italian poetry, during the latter half of the century. Three great poets (justly called the triumvirs of free poetry) gave the example and the impulse to their contemporaries; Frugoni, Algarotti, and Bettinelli; and were we to take literally a compliment paid by Frugoni to Bettinelli, we might conclude that the latter, in his “Poemetti,” had surpassed both the others; for, Frugoni addresses him in this manner:

“Tu che, in liberi carmi, il vanto togliere
 “Potesti a tutti.”

Almost contemporary with this work in verse, Bettinelli published another in prose, by which he proved himself as great a critic as a poet. This was his celebrated “Letters of Virgil from the Elysian Fields, to the Arcadi of Rome,” an excellent fiction, which requires a short commentary. The later Italians had, to our own days, held in too much veneration the fathers of their poetry, Dante, Petrarch, and others; they seemed not to be aware that these early poets, although undoubtedly an ornament to human nature, could not avoid paying a tribute to the rudeness of their age. Readers in general were also too prepossessed in favour of the poets of the time of Leo X.; they seemed not to feel that the age of that immortal patron of learning and talents, although unquestionably one of the four classical ages of literature, had the necessary disadvantage of being the first enlightened age that followed the universal and long Gothic barbarism of Europe; and, consequently, that it was impossible for the human mind suddenly to pass from the night to the broad day of genius and taste; and these two prejudices had been fatal to the farther improvement of the nation in all the branches of poetry. Numberless intelligent persons lamented the prejudice; but no one had ever dared to attack it in an open, much less in a direct manner. Bettinelli effected this by representing Virgil as giving precepts of taste to his countrymen. The work made an extraordinary impression; and it will certainly be always held in the highest estimation. We regret that the boundaries of this article, and much more the diversity of the language, prevent us from giving a specimen of the forcible and humourous style of the author, in that publication.

In the year 1758, Bettinelli, for the first time, appeared as a dramatist. He wrote three original tragedies, and he translated from the French the “*Catilina, or Rome saved*,” of Voltaire. By these exertions, however, he did not raise his fame higher. His original tragedies were a professed imitation of Racine; and it was justly considered as extraordinary that an author, of a genius in every respect capable

capable of grandeur and originality, should descend to the walk of imitators. His translation also was considered as indifferent; it exhibited more of the lyric than of the dramatic style.

In the latter part of 1758 and the commencement of 1759 our author made the tour of Germany and France. We shall not follow him in his travels, because we have no knowledge of the particulars by which they were attended. We shall only notice the anecdote related of his visit to Voltaire, in his chateau of Ferney. Voltaire, in a grotesque habit, was working in his garden, when his servant announced the stranger who wished to pay his respects to him. He felt no difficulty on account of his figure and occupation; and no sooner had the stranger mentioned his name, than the philosopher exclaimed, with his usual and characteristic pleasantry, "an Italian, a Jesuit, a Bettinelli! This is too much honour for my poor cottage!"

In 1769, Bettinelli published at Milan his capital work (the greatest certainly that ever issued from his pen) "the Enthusiasm of the Fine Arts," the professed design of which was to maintain and revive the studies of imagination. In this work he vindicated the rights of imagination and taste against the attacks of the analytic spirit; and in this point we cannot forbear making him speak for himself. "We see with satisfaction the amazing improvement in the knowledge of nature and of man: we cannot too much congratulate ourselves on the vast number of philosophers and mathematicians by whom we are surrounded. But we cannot, on the other hand, dissemble, that these studies, in the same proportion as they advance human knowledge, are an injury to the imagination. Geometers and natural philosophers think themselves authorised to extend their dominion over the provinces of taste, over rhetorical and poetical performances, and the principles of style. We run the hazard of remaining destitute of poets, orators, and artists; and, consequently, of losing those sources of sweet illusion in which error was compensated by delight—an illusion, perhaps, as necessary as truth itself to the happiness of life."

During the interval between this publication, in 1769, and the suppression of the order of the Jesuits, in 1773, we have intimations from several periodical works of the time, that Bettinelli was Professor of Divinity in Verona. It is, however, certain, that to this period must be referred his other excellent work, "the Natural History of Man, according to the Book of Genesis." The objections, among others, made by modern unbelievers to the truth of the Old Testament, were founded on the natural history of man: they tended to prove that it was impossible to explain how, in the comparatively short duration assigned to the world, according to the chronology of Genesis, the progress of population, of arts, of commerce, and especially the establishment of the mighty ancient eastern empires, could take place. To confute all these objections, and to maintain that the rise and progress of civil society could be satisfactorily explained by the Bible, was certainly *dignus vindice nodus*.

At the suppression of his order, Bettinelli soon met with a situation

in which his talents and learning were likely to be still more beneficial to the public. The then reigning duke of Modena, Francis III. among other princely virtues, had inherited from his ancestors that of patronising the arts and sciences; and, under his reign, besides numberless other literary improvements, the university of Modena had reached the highest degree of splendour: it was the best, perhaps, in Italy. Francis nominated Bettinelli principal of the university; and the place was too honourable and lucrative not to be desirable.

It was during his residence in Modena that Bettinelli planned and published his work "on the Revival of Sciences and Arts in Italy after the Tenth Century," in two volumes. We cannot understand why, being in Modena, the author conceived the design of such a work as this, whilst in the same city the illustrious Tiraboschi was gradually presenting to the public his unrivalled "History of Italian Literature." We are, however, inclined to believe that it was with a view of proving that he had adopted a more judicious plan, and was capable of executing it in a better method and style. He has, in fact, avoided the faults for which Tiraboschi's performance has been censured; and though it cannot vie with that author's work in respect to extent of information, it is superior, we apprehend, in respect to the accessory qualifications of order, taste, and language.

At the death of the duke Francis, in 1780, the Modenese literature underwent a total revolution. His son and successor, the late duke Hercules, was characteristically avaricious. He suppressed several literary institutions; he reformed some others, and among these, the university itself. He reduced the salaries of all persons that were in its service; and the consequence was, that the most respectable among these persons left the place. Some of them (Spallanzani was one) repaired to Pavia: Bettinelli retired to Mantua.

This circumstance, indirectly at least, produced a great honour to his native place; for, towards the close of 1781, he published "*Le Lettere e le Arti Mantovane*," "*The History of Letters and Arts in Mantua*," in two volumes. Although we cannot alledge any reason why, towards the decline and the close of the 18th century, the Italians turned a great share of their attention towards partial and local literary history, we cannot help admiring the amazing number of works of the kind which, during that period, appeared in the several parts of the country. Not one state, not one province, not any city of note, not, perhaps, any university, but has been honoured with a peculiar history of its literature! Mantua was, perhaps, until then, destitute of a similar honour—and if so, she must congratulate herself on the lateness of the event; for the work of Bettinelli was judged superior to any former one of the kind, and proved a model for all subsequent performances in the same walk.

It is not in our knowledge that after the year 1781 Bettinelli ever wrote any other systematic work. We only know that, in the immediately following years, he had some polemic disputes with several other authors; that, even so late as 1793 and 1794, he wrote many fugitive

pieces, both in prose and verse, for the use of periodical publications; and that, about 1795, he printed in Venice a complete edition of his works, in twenty-four 8vo. volumes.

From some Italian publications of 1800, we have hints that he was then alive; from others of 1804, we learn that he was dead: so that the date of his death may be fixed between 1801 and 1803, between the 83d and 85th year of his life. He was of a tall size, and exceedingly well shaped, with a noble and commanding aspect: he was polite, affable, and sprightly, but much tinctured with personal vanity. As a poet, a critic, a metaphysician and historian, his merit is undoubtedly of the first rate; and with respect to the art of composition, he deserves to be reckoned one of the purest and most elegant writers of the century—one of the few who laboured to preserve the genuine Italian idiom from any foreign mixture.

F. D.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

SABBATH MUSINGS.

IT is the Sabbath morn. The landscape smiles
 Calm in the sun; and silent are the hills
 And vallies, and the blue serene of air.
 The sea scarce trembles to the rippling gale,
 Bright in tranquillity. The vanish'd lark
 Breaks faint the silence, and disturbs it not.
 Congenial is this quiet: 'tis the calm
 Of nature's earliest Sabbath: when from heaven
 The glance creative beam'd upon a world
 Of peace and beauty, and beheld it good.
 O native isle belov'd! by rounding waves
 Bosom'd remote, and hallow'd from the world;
 The spirit meek of sanctity now walks
 Thy flowery meadows and thy thickets green.
 I love thy pious reverence of the day:
 It whispers hope; it breathes the secret pledge
 Of preservation, while earth's kingdoms fall.
 I love thy pure and simple rite: there are
 Who love thee not: there are who barbarous deem
 Thy manliest virtues, and whose eyes discern
 In this thy cheerful holiness, a gloom
 Sullen and sad. There is no sullen gloom
 O England! in thy sabbaths: gayer climes
 May smile derision: leave them to their sports,

Their

Their masques, and blasphemous idolatries.
 Be this thy stedfast anchor: be this day
 No common festival; no tide profane
 Of dance and feast and revelry and song:
 Be thine the joy of spiritual things,
 Deep-felt, serene; the joy Religion loves.

Hail scene of beauty! scene of sabbath calm!
 Thou greenest earth! thou blue and boundless heaven!
 Thou sea, reposing like a stilly lake!
 Hail ye, that blend your silence with the soul!

Around, the unimaginable God
 Moves visible to faith: but unconfus'd
 With these, the works and wonders of his hand.
 These *intercept* his presence, not reveal:
 He sojourns not in clouds, nor is the light
 His essence, mingled with the common mass
 Of elements, as ancient sages dream'd:
 God and his creatures One. Beyond the scope
 Of sense, the incommunicable mind
 Dwelleth; and they, who with corporeal eye,
 Adoring nature's beauteous forms, discern
 Intelligence in colours and in shades;
 In sunlight, and the glimmer of the moon:
 Who deem their worship holy, when they hear
 A God in empty winds, and in the sounds
 Of waters—they have bow'd th' idolatrous knee
 Before material atoms! these are *his*,
 But not *HIMSELF*: suspended by his breath
 They are, and at his voice may cease to be.
 Away from us these mystic vanities,
 This heathen's wisdom, and this poet's creed:
 Away from us this morbid sympathy,
 That blends itself with rocks and trees; that stoops
 To fellowship with brutes: that finds a soul
 In every bird that flits along the sky,
 A life in every leaf, and every flower.
 Strange! that created things can wean the heart
 From their Creator! Thine alone be praise,
 And love and wonder, Omnipresent ONE,
 And be thy sabbath holy to thyself.

C. A. ELTON.

AN IMAGE OF LIFE.

WERE writing lives to be my task,
From cottagers to kings,
A little book I'd only ask,
And fill it full of wings.

Each pair should represent a day ;
On some the sun should rise,
While others bent their mournful way
Through cold and cloudy skies.

And here I would the lightning bring
To dart its forked glare,
And there the hallow'd rainbow fling
Across the troubled air.

Some faint and heavily should glide
Their broken flight along,
While some high in the air should ride,
Dilated, bold and strong.

Some agitated and adrift,
Against their will should rove ;
Some steering forward, sure and swift,
Should scarcely seem to move.

Others, the happiest of their kind,
Should in the ether soar,
As if no care should ever find,
No sorrow reach them more.

When soon an arrow from below
Should wound them in their flight,
And many a crimson drop should flow,
Ere yet they came in sight.

Their rapid and abrupt descent,
Their stain'd and ruffled plume,
Appears as they were never meant
Their station to resume.

But soon their beauty and their force,
Sweet hours of rest renew,
Again their bright and varied course
With ardour they pursue.

And thus alternate rise and fall,
Through each succeeding day ;
For this of any life is all
I should aspire to say.

MATILDA BETHAM.

A CHRISTMAS ELEGY.

THE mantling bowl, the dance, and merry song,
 Fill every heart with jocund mirth and glee;
 Save his to whom those Christmas bills belong—
 And ah! unhappy, they belong to me!

Yes, yes, laugh on my lads and crack your jokes,
 Ye who fear not a dun's terrific frown;
 Less hoarse to me the omen'd raven croaks,
 And with a feather you might knock me down.

Yes, happy rogues, glide on in pleasure's stream,
 In midnight revels drive the hours away;
 Whilst I, poor wight! in horrid slumbers dream
 Of prisons, bailiffs, writs, and law's delay.

From brooding care my buoyant spirit fled,
 My wit encumber'd feels a deadly curse;
 Yon paper scraps its monumental bed—
 Infernal torments from—that empty purse.

My independence!—but a boasted name,
 No more the thought to freedom once allied;
 A tailor's voice now cools my patriot flame,
 And Dolly Washtub tramples on my pride.

And call you this the time of joy and ease?
 —A vengeance take such joys for me, I pray;
 In trembling fear I munch my bread and cheese,
 And count the minutes until *quarter-day*!

Haste, haste, ye hours, and bring me quick relief—
 Have patience tailors, coblers, washer-wives;
 For honest *Hase** will cure our mutual grief,
 Without recourse to poison, hemp, or knives.

* Vide a Bank of England Note.

M.

Litchfield, 1st Jan. 1809.

LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

A series of Letters on Canada will shortly appear, from the pen of a gentleman lately resident some years in that country. They give a faithful description of its people, their manners, laws, and customs; of its productions and trade with Britain and the colonies, and with the United States; of the peculiarities of climate, particularly the Canadian winter; and of the present state of society in a physical and moral point of view, with some useful remarks on the policy of the mother-country in the management of her colonies. In preparing the work for the press, the epistolary form has been preserved, as combining the advantages of a digested treatise with the interest naturally attending a correspondence dictated by observations made on the spot.

Par

Part the first of a Catalogue of Books for 1809, which are now selling by Edward Bryan and Co. Bristol, price 1s.

Mr. Rose has announced his intention of shortly publishing some *Strictures* on Mr. Fox's History of the Stuarts, appended to Sir P. Hume's Narrative of the Enterprize under the command of the Duke of Argyle in 1685.

The first volume of a new Annual Register is about to be published at Edinburgh.

Mr. Parkes is printing a work on the Rudiments of Chemistry, illustrated by plates.

Mr. Maurice's concluding volume of his Modern History of Hindostan is nearly ready for publication.

Mr. Custance has in the press a new and improved edition of his Concise View of the Constitution of England.

A new edition of *Memoirs of an American Lady*, by Mrs. Grant, is in the press.

Dr. Rutherford's Ancient History is now reprinting in two 12mo. volumes, for the use of schools.

Mr. Grahame, author of *The Sabbath and other Poems*, has a new Poem in the press, to be entitled, *The British Georgics*.

A Selection from the Gentleman's Magazine, arranged under the heads of—1. History and Antiquities. 2. Ancient and Modern Literature, Criticism, and Philology. 3. Philosophy and Natural History. 4. Letters to and from Eminent Persons. 5. Miscellaneous Articles, &c. &c. in three volumes 8vo. will shortly issue from the press at Oxford, under the superintendence and care of a gentleman of that university. We recollect it was the opinion of the celebrated GIBBON, the historian of the Roman Empire, that if those articles in that work which are of real value were properly chosen and classed, they might revive to great advantage in a new publication of a moderate size.

We have at length the pleasure of announcing to the public, that Mr. Fenton's long expected Tour through Pembrokeshire is in the press, and will be published in the course of the ensuing spring. It will be embellished with Views of all the principal Seats and Ruins, drawn chiefly by Sir Richard Hoare, and engraved by Storer and Greig, in their best manner. It will form one large quarto volume. This Tour is intended as the first of a series of Tours through North and South Wales, which will be conducted upon the same plan: and the literary world may now hope to be indulged with a faithful delineation of these interesting parts of the United Kingdom, by an author of abilities, and a native of the principality.

There is now printing at Oxford, a new edition of Quintilian, after the manner of Rollin's Compendium, in one 8vo. volume.

In the press, and will appear in a short time, a Tragedy in blank verse, entitled, *Poetus and Arria*, with a Letter to T. Sheridan, Esq. on the present state of the English Stage.

The London Booksellers have completed Holinshed's Chronicles, and that of Hall is nearly ready, and Grafton is gone to press.

A Treatise on Spherical Trigonometry is in the press by Mr. Renouard, of Trinity College, Cambridge.

A second Essay on the Teeth of Wheels is nearly ready for publication, by Mr. Robertson Buchanan, who has three more Essays ready for publication on the same subject. He will also speedily give to the world a second edition of his Essay on Heating Buildings by Steam, which will contain an arranged collection of the facts that have subsequently been ascertained.

Speedily will be published, a new edition of the works of the Poets of Great Britain from Chancer to Cowper, including the best translations of the Classics. It will be comprized in twenty-two volumes, royal octavo, printed in two columns, and will constitute one of the handsomest library books which has appeared for several years.

In a short time will be published, *Letters of Mrs. Elizabeth Montague*, with some of the Letters of her Correspondents, by Matthew Montague, Esq. M. P.

About

About to be published, in one 8vo. volume, the Ecclesiastical and University Annual Register. This work will present an opportunity for preserving the interesting documents of that body, with a detailed account of all the occurrences that may be deemed worthy of record.

The first volume of a new Analysis of Chronology, by Dr. Hales, will soon appear, in three 4to. vols.

That great reviver of the art of Engraving on Wood Mr. T. Bewick, of Newcastle, has been for a considerable time engaged in preparing wood blocks for a System of Economical and Useful Botany, which will extend to about 450 specimens of plants the most useful in medicine, diet, and manufacture. The text will be furnished by Dr. Thornton, which will give every information relative to the history and uses of the several subjects.

The works of the late James Barry, Esq. are nearly ready for publication in two volumes 4to.

Mr. Alexander Walker, of Edinburgh, has in the press a compendious System of Anatomy.

On a late trial in an action for a libel, in which Mr. Nightingale, author of the Portraiture of Methodism, obtained 200l. damages against a Review of his book, Lord Ellenborough, in his charge, laid down certain principles respecting the prerogatives of a literary reviewer, which we think it may be of use to lay before our readers. He says to the Jury, "The question for your consideration is this; and which is the same question that was left on a former occasion which has been alluded to; whether these strictures which are complained of, be a fair criticism on a literary work, written in the spirit, and for the purpose of a fair and candid discussion of the work so criticised? or whether, under the pretence of such criticism, it is a malicious slander of the person and private character of the author? That, I take it, is the fair question to be left for your consideration; for as to the work itself, there can be no doubt but that in the fullest manner, it is fair in any person to criticise upon that work, and to go fully into the character of it. And this could not be done in many cases, without in some respects commenting upon the person of the author; as far as he exhibits himself in his work he is fairly the subject of criticism. But if the critic travels into collateral matter, not pertinent to the subject of the book, and chooses to deal in any collateral slander, if he introduces any facts not stated in the work, and makes injurious comments upon them, in that respect he is a slanderer, and liable to an action."

MONTHLY LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

FINE ARTS.

The Historic Gallery of Paintings and Portraits; containing correct Copies in Outline of the Works of the most celebrated Painters; with Critical Remarks, and a Biographical Memoir. 4 vols. 8vo. 4l. 16s. boards, vellum backs.

CLASSICS.

Horatii Flacci Eclogæ, cum Scholiis Veteribus, castigavit et Notis Illustravit Gulielmus Baxterus, varias Lectiones et Observationes addidit. Jo. Matthias Gesnerus. 8vo. 12s. boards.

DRAMA.

Valentine's Day; or, the Amorous Knight and the Belle Widow: a new and original Comedy, in Three Acts. Price 3s. 6d.

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The French Student's Vade Mecum; or, indispensable Companion. By the Rev. P. C. Le Vasseur. 12mo. 5s. boards.

GEOGRAPHY.

GEOGRAPHY.

Cary's Universal Atlas, No. 1 to 9, imperial 4to. price 3s. 6d. each, full coloured; and 3s. outlined.

A Complete System of Geography, Ancient and Modern. By James Playfair, D. D. Principal of the United College of St. Andrew, &c. Vol. 2, 4to. 2l. 2s. boards.

HISTORY.

Asiatic Researches; or, Transactions of the Society instituted at Bengal, for inquiring into the History, Antiquities, and Literature of Asia. Vol. 9, 8vo. 12s. and 4to. 1l. 5s. boards.

De Motu per Britanniam Civico Annis MDCCXLV et MDCCXLVI, Liber unic. Auctore T. D. Whitaker, LL. D. S. S. A. the Historian of Whalley and Craven, &c. 12mo. 6s. boards.

History of Brazil; comprizing a Geographical Account of that Country, together with a Narrative of the most remarkable Events which have occurred there since its discovery, &c. By Andrew Grant, M. D. 8s. 6d. boards.

The New Annual Register; or, General Repository of History, Politics, and Literature for the Year 1808. 8vo. 1l. boards.

LAW.

Nightingale *versus* Stockdale. Report of the Trial in an Action for a Libel, contained in a Review of the "Portraiture of Methodism," tried at Guildhall, before the Right Hon. Lord Ellenborough and a Special Jury, Saturday, March 11, 1809. Taken in short-hand by Mr. Bartrum. 8vo. 2s. 6d.

MEDICINE, SURGERY, &c.

Observations on some of the most frequent and important Diseases of the Heart; on Aneurism of the Thoracic Aorta; on Preternatural Pulsation in the Epigastric Region; and on the unusual Origin and Distribution of some of the large Arteries of the Human Body. Illustrated by Cases. By Allan Burns, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; and Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery, Glasgow. 8vo. 7s. boards.

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A Series of Views in the University of Cambridge; from Drawings by R. B. Harraden, junior. No. 1. 4to. 10s. 6d.

Essays, Biographical, Critical, and Historical, illustrative of the Rambler, Adventurer, and Idler. By Nathan Drake, M. D. author of Literary Hours, and of Essays on the Tatler, Spectator, and Guardian. Foolscep 8vo. 10s. 6d. boards.

The Quarterly Review: Number 1. 8vo. price 5s.

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An Attempt to elucidate the pernicious Consequences of a Deviation from the Principles of the Orders in Council. 8vo. 2s. 6d.

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A Catalogue of Books in various Languages, for 1809; comprehending some Libraries recently purchased, and including several rare and curious articles; which are now on sale, for ready money, by William Blackwood, 64, South Bridge-street, opposite the College, Edinburgh. price 2s. 6d.

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Observations on several parts of the Counties of Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex; also on several parts of North Wales; relative chiefly to Picturesque Beauty; in two Tours, the former made in the Year 1769, the latter in the Year 1773. By the late Wm. Gilpin, A.M. 8vo. 18s. boards.

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METEOROLOGICAL

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

		Wind.	Pressure.		Temp.		Evap.	Rain, &c
			max.	min.	max.	min.		
New Moon	Feb. 14	SW	29.67	29.20	52°	41°	9	
a.	15	SW	29.80	29.53	53	42	7	5
	16	S	29.56	29.52	52	46	8	3
	17	SW	29.80	29.77	55	45	.11	
b.	18	SW	30.47	29.77	57	35	.10	
c.	19	SW	30.47	30.17	54	45	9	
	20	SW	29.99	29.90	51	38	.10	
d.	21	NW	30.35	29.99	42	30	7	
1st Qr.	22	NW						
	23	Var.	30.35		52	33	.14	
	24	SW	30.35	30.25	48	38	6	
e.	25	W	30.45	30.25	47	29		
f.	26	SW	30.45	30.37	50	33	.10	
g.	27	SW	30.37	30.33	53	52	4	
g.	28	SW	30.33	30.24	53	35	4	2
March	1	Var.	30.39	30.24	51	38	3	.11
Full Moon	2	NE	30.45	30.37	47	32	9	
	3	NE	30.37	30.16	46	35	9	
	4	Var.	30.18	30.13	48	39	4	
	5	N	30.29	30.18	43	34	6	1
h.	6	N	30.39	30.29	40	35	4	
i.	7		30.49	30.39	40	33	0	
Last Qr.	8	SW	30.49	30.31	47	32	2	
k.	9	NW	30.31	30.23	55	39	5	
l.	10	NE	30.23	30.27	46	31	.18	
l.	11	NE	30.27	30.09	47	36	.12	
m.	12	NE	30.09	30.20	50	34	.21	
m.	13	NE	30.25	30.20	47	34	.14	
n.	14	NE	30.44	30.25	46	36	.10	
n.	15	NW	30.35	30.24	48	33	7	
			30.25	30.10	48.96	35.96	T. 2.33	0.22
			M. 30.17		42.46			

N. B. The Notations comprised in each line relate to a period of 24 hours, reckoned from 9 a. m. on the day of the date. A dash denotes that the period so marked is to form a part of that allotted to the next observation.

REMARKS.

- a. Cloudy and windy, with showers.
 b. The Temp. higher at 9 a.m. than for the last 24 hours. Barometer wavering. The *ground* springs, or those of the superficial strata, begin to subside, so that it is now possible to dig without *puddling* the soil.
 c. A. M. much dew. At sun-set the cirrus cloud, highly coloured, with a strong pink tinge in the horizon. Some wind in the night.
 d. A. M. very cloudy: a squall with a little hail, then a fair day.
 e. Slight showers, with a clear air, the last four days. *Lunar halo*, small and coloured.
 f. Hoar frost; very misty.
 g. Still misty weather: coloured *halo*, as also the following night.
 h. Slight showers and misty weather for several days past.
 i. A very wet mist this night. The evaporation gauge received an increase of about $\frac{1}{16}$ In.
 k. The atmosphere begins to clear below.
 l. Fine clear weather: smart breeze from the N. E.
 m. Much dew, a. m. windy.
 n. Cloudy: a little rain from the N. a. m. the 14th.

RESULTS.

Winds variable; the Westerly have blown longest, and the Easterly with the greatest force; though neither have much exceeded a breeze.

Mean height of Barometer	-	30.17 In.!
Thermometer		42.46°
Evaporation	- - - - -	2.33 In.
Rain	- - - - -	0.22 In.

Character of this Moon quite the reverse of the last. Barometer remarkably high and steady: Temperature rather low and uniform: frequent mists, dews, and hoar-frost: winds moderate and drying, with very little return of water from the clouds; so that much of the period had rather an *Autumnal* aspect. It has been highly favourable to the agricultural business of the season.

L. H.

Plaistow, 20th of 3d mo. 1809.

LUNAR RAINBOW.

The following notice of this rare phenomenon has been handed to me from my friend John Capper, of Stoke Newington.

L. H.

On the 1st of 12th month (Dec) 1808, a little after 5 o'clock a.m. I observed a Lunar Rainbow; the Moon being near setting to the North of West. It was of unequal brightness. In the most northerly part of it, near the earth, the colours were very distinct, in the other parts they were scarcely distinguishable; and it had, on the whole, the appearance of a white arch, at the usual distance from which the second (or doubly reflected) bow was visible. Opposite the brightest parts, at the northern end, it was very strong, and coloured, as the inner bow in that place was. The white part did not last more than ten minutes; the coloured part continued visible much longer.

VOL. V.

2 Y

RESULTS

RESULTS, &c. for JANUARY, 1809.

Mean Barom. Pressure 29.345—Highest 29.90—Lowest 28.45.—Range 1.45.
 Mean Temperature - 33°89.—Highest 51° —Lowest 15° —Range 36°.
 Spaces described by the Barometer, 11.50 inches.—Number of Changes 14.
 Rain, &c. this Month, 2.665 inches.—Number of Wet Days, 13.
 My Correspondent at Wilsden, Yorkshire, makes the quantity of Rain, for this Month, 3,060 Inches.

WIND.

N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
0	0	12	6	0	6	4	0

Total Number of Observations, 28.—Number of Stormy Days, 2.

THOS. HANSON

Manchester Lying-in Hospital, Feb. 3, 1809.

RESULTS, &c. for FEBRUARY, 1809.

Mean Barom. Pressure 29.537—Highest 30.35—Lowest 28.40—Range 1.95.
 Mean Temperature 42°43—Highest 54°0—Lowest 28°0—Range 26°0
 Spaces described by the Barometer in inches, 10.00.—Number of Changes, 9.
 Rain, &c. this Month, 1.935 Inches.—Wet Days, 10.—Total Rain this Year, 4.620 Inches.

Mr. G. Tweedy, of Wilsden, near Bingley, Yorkshire, makes the quantity of Rain, for this period, 58.80 Inches.

And the Rev. R. A. Singleton, of Blackley, near Manchester, makes the quantity, for this Month, 2.475 Inches.—For the preceding Month, 2.770 Inches.

WIND.

N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW
0	1	0	4	5	11	2	4

Total Number of Observations, 27.—Number of Stormy Days, 7.

THOS. HANSON.

Lying-in Hospital, March 3, 1809.

RESULTS of METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER at MALTON in February.

Mean elevation of Barom. 29.58.—Max. 30.30.—Min. 28.18—Range, 2.12 In.

Thermom. 39.67°—Max. 55°—Min. 24°—Range, 31°

Rain, &c. 4.57 Inches, the principal part of which fell before the 11th. Total quantity this Year, 8.21 Inches. Number of Wet Days, 13. Stormy, 9.

WIND.

N.	E.	N.E.	S.E.	S.	W.	S.W.	N.W.	Var.
2	2	1	1	2	8	8	2	2

Character of the Month: from the commencement to the 15th, wet and windy; afterwards fair, calm, and dry, with hoar-frosts.

The density of the air has undergone considerable changes. From the 1st to the 6th, the Barometer, in the course of twenty-four hours, frequently rose and fell 7 or 8-10ths. From the 8th to the 13th (on which last-mentioned day the column was lower than for several years past) the loss of quicksilver was equal to 1 inch and 8-10ths; and on the 18th, not only this quantity was restored, but an additional weight of 3-10ths was also gained. The column soon after attained its maximum of elevation, and continued high and pretty stationary the remainder of the month.

J. S. STOCKTON.

Malton, March 2d, 1809.

INTELLIGENCE

RELATIVE TO ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of Mr. Samuel Crackles, of Kingston upon Hull, Brush-manufacturer, for a method of making Brushes from Whalebone. Dated Nov. 1808.

To prepare the whalebone for making brushes, it must be boiled or steeped in water long enough to make it soft and flexible; in which state it is to be cut into thin slices or shavings, by a knife or plane, having lances fixed in front of it (at small intervals) so as to divide the shavings into long filaments, which may be made thicker or thinner according to the work for which they are required, by a proper arrangement of the lances and of the cutting instrument. For the greater convenience in boiling, steeping, and working the whalebone, it may be cut into lengths of nine, twelve, or eighteen inches.

When the whalebone is formed into filaments resembling bristles by the method described, it must be laid in a convenient place to dry, which will generally be effected in twelve hours, after which it may be used in the same way as bristles in manufacturing all kinds of brushes. For those brushes in which the bristles are usually set with pitch, the whalebone filaments may be prepared for similar management by searing them at one end with a red hot iron, so as to make them resemble the roots of the bristles, and beating them at the other end, to make them like the divided part of the bristles, technically called the flag of the bristles.

This method of making brushes from whalebone, besides the ingenuity of the process, has a consideration of national benefit to recommend it. Most of the bristles which were used in England were imported from foreign countries, particularly from Russia. The artifice of our inveterate foe, which descends to the most minute particulars of annoyance, has contrived to stop the supply from this quarter, which has made them scarce and dear. Mr. Crackles' invention not only removes this evil, but furnishes a farther extent of trade for the products of the whale fisheries, which have been thought of so much importance to the nation, that our parliament on various occasions has given them considerable encouragement, and among other acts in their favour has prohibited all other oil but fish-oil from being burned in lamps throughout the kingdom.

Patent of Wm. Shotwell, of New York, America, but now residing in the city of York, for methods of manufacturing Mustard. Dated June, 1808.

Mr. Shotwell has two processes for what he calls *improvements* in manufacturing mustard. In the first method the bran or offal (left after separating the mustard flour, in the usual manner) is wetted, and then ground between horizontal stones, or triturated for some time in any other way, after which it is immersed in a considerable quantity of water, and well stirred; the bran, which is the heaviest part, is suffered to subside, and the water containing the mustard flower is strained through flannel into a vat, to separate the bran and other foreign substances. The mustard flour is then left to precipitate in this vat, and after the water is drawn off from above it, it is preserved in the usual way. That nothing may be lost, the bran left in the first vessel is worked over again, and the water drawn from the second vessel is used a second time with fresh bran. The air is kept from the mustard, and the operations are completed as speedily as possible, to prevent the pungency from escaping.

So far the business is fair and just, as there is no reason to suppose that the part of the mustard flour which adheres to the bran is inferior to the rest; we cannot, however, say this of the second process, which is no less than an attempt to pass off maize flour, and other articles, on the public as mustard, by giving them some degree of pungency by mixing them with mustard bran; the method is thus described in the specification: 'To make dry mustard from the bran, India corn (maize) broken small, is mixed with mustard bran, ground in a mill, or comminuted in any other way, and then sifted; and these processes are repeated as often as the patentee finds them *profitable*: he also mentions that he has used a great variety of other substances to *mix* with the mustard bran; but observes, that the *quantity* of (maize) flour or other *appropriate substance* to be used in this way must depend on the richness of the bran, and can only be ascertained by observation. Near the end of the specification is described a machine for sifting mustard; it consists of a frame six feet and a half long, twenty-six inches broad, and five inches deep, suspended with one end a little higher than the other, and kept steady in its motion forwards and backwards by pieces projecting from it, which run between others fixed beneath to guide them. On this frame a long sieve of the same dimensions, with a silk bottom, is fixed, beneath which brushes are placed to brush it as it moves, which may be put in motion by a crank. A chest is put under all to receive the mustard, and a hopper is placed above for delivering the meal into the sieve. Mallets with spring handles are placed at the sides of the sieve to strike it as it moves; but the manner of their operation, or the way in which they receive motion, is not described.

The patentee concludes by recounting the *peculiar* advantages which arise from his improvements. First, he obtains a considerable quantity of genuine mustard from the bran or offal, usually deemed of little value. Secondly, he obtains an article possessing a considerable degree of pungency from brown mustard bran (and maize flour) at a small expence, which may be either used in that state, or *be mixed with genuine mustard*. And thirdly, by the machinery for sifting from the hopper being connected with the top of the sieve, the labour of supplying the sieve with meal is much lessened, and the supply made more regular; and by the brushes being moved by a crank, the labour of brushing the sieve is much diminished.

The shameful adulteration of all articles in much use, in which it can escape detection, calls loudly for the interference of government to suppress it. Drugs of various kinds are so much damaged in this way, that medicines frequently have no effect, or one very different from what was intended. Formerly such practices were performed in secret, but of late years more effrontery is used; at some druggists, we have good authority for stating, that an article is openly sold for the sole purpose of adulterating pepper, under the denomination of hot P. D. made of ground capsicum pods, and some foreign wood of the colour of pepper, finely pulverised. Many other similar abuses are practised; but no one as yet before the American mustard improver has had so little shame as to take a patent for selling articles to adulterate and debase the necessities of life. And lest his intention should escape observation, he informs us that the mixture of maize flour and mustard may be used by itself, or *be mixed with genuine mustard*. Maize flour is probably preferred, because its yellow colour renders it more similar to mustard.

There is a proviso in every patent which renders it void if it contains any thing contrary to law or *prejudicial* or *inconvenient* to his Majesty's subjects. We believe on this ground that a patent for adulterating mustard cannot possess much validity; but this appears to us not a sufficient excuse for those who have the regulation of patents for granting one of this nature; they must know that the name of a patent carries with it an appearance of rendering legal the matter for which it is granted, and even of affording it the royal sanction; and they cannot but acknowledge that it must be discreditable to the great seal of England to have it appended to a plan for adulterating mustard. Surely if go-

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vernment will not protect us against deceptions of this nature, it should at least not appear to authorise them.

Account of Fences of elastic Wire, which divide Lawns or Parks, without interrupting the view.

The wire fences are formed by thick wires, about the size of a small reed, stretched horizontally, about nine inches asunder, through small iron stancheons, which are fixed at intervals of seven feet. At the extremities of the fence the stancheons are stronger than in the other parts, and are besides secured from yielding to the strain of the wire by diagonal pieces passing from their upper parts to the ground; to these stancheons alone the wires are fastened, and pass freely through holes drilled in the intermediate stancheons; but when the extent of the fence is very great, it will be necessary to have a greater number of main stancheons, and not to depend solely on those at the ends of the fence; at the main stancheons the wire may be drawn as tight as is thought fit by screws and nuts.

These fences are usually under four feet high; but when intended to keep in deer, they may be made two feet higher. We are informed that deer never attempt to leap over them or injure them, and appear to avoid them as if they were a snare.

Lambs may be kept from plantations with these fences, by interweaving vertical wires, proportionally small, between the lower horizontal wires; and hares and rabbits may be excluded by adding more vertical wires so as to leave the interstices still narrower.

Mr. Pilton, of King's-road, Chelsea, has put up a number of these wire fences in the parks of noblemen and gentlemen, and in the grounds of her Majesty's residence at Frogmore; and he informs us, that they have been found invariably of sufficient strength to exclude the largest and strongest cattle of all kinds. He also informs us, that at the distance of about seventy yards these fences can no longer be seen distinctly; so that they do not in the least interrupt prospects; and for this reason may be run in straight lines, as the avoiding the formality of appearance which such lines give to other fences, cannot be necessary for those, which at so small a distance cease to be objects of view; and from this principle, in any part of the grounds where they are used, cattle may be admitted which are usually excluded from pleasure grounds and ornamented walks, on account of the unsightly appearance which the common fences would have, that would be necessary to prevent them from doing mischief.

In the above view of the wire fences, which has been principally extracted from a communication on the subject by Mr. Pilton, their advantages have alone been considered in not interrupting prospects, or injuring the beauty of parks and pleasure grounds, while they form an effectual defence against cattle of all sorts.

As to their comparative cheapness compared with other fences, in the mode of their construction described, we have not been furnished with documents to make any precise statements; we can, however, easily conceive from what we know of the price of wire, that the principal part of the expence of such fences must consist in the iron stancheons and in the stone blocks, or other supports by which those stancheons are to be sustained in the ground; and therefore conceive that very cheap fences might be formed of wire, by using with them oak posts (formed of tops and other inferior pieces sold at the yards of ship-builders) instead of the iron stancheons. On weighing some wire of a fourth of an inch in thickness, it was found that two yards and a half of it nearly weighed one pound; and this sort of wire, we are informed, sells at the rate of 6s. for 10½ lbs. or about 7d. a pound. The wire part, therefore, of fences about four feet high, with intervals of nine inches between the wires, would not cost more than 3s. 6d. for two yards and an half of the fence; the price of the posts would

would be various in different places; but as the price of wood must affect the price of other fences also, we are very safe in asserting, that wire fence, with wooden posts, is the cheapest that can be made. Of the strength of wire fences a very good estimate may be formed, by observing the great strain which the small chains will bear by which waggons are drawn; these chains are not above double the strength of wire of the size described, and yet two of them will endure the united efforts of five horses (with all the casualties of sudden jerks and violent tugs in passing ruts, &c.) for some years without giving way. When it is, besides, considered that the iron used in wire is much tougher than that used in common chains, the small effect that the strength of any single beast can have against the fence described must be obvious. As to the durability of this kind of fence, we believe it will be superior to that of most artificial fences, except walls. The more refined iron is, it is certainly the more liable to be corroded by rust. The iron used for wire must be of the best quality; but although this renders it subject to rust, yet when of the above thickness it will last many years, if kept well painted, which cannot cost much, on account of the smallness of its surface.

In addition to what has been above stated relative to the strength of the wire fence, we have to add, that from some cause which has not been yet accounted for, the act of drawing the wire makes the iron so much stronger, that an iron wire of a given diameter is found to be near double the strength of a piece of the same dimensions of the same iron of which it was formed. Muschenbrock, who made very accurate experiments of the strength of wire of different sorts, states, that iron wire of a tenth of an inch in diameter will support 450 lbs. before it breaks. Now as the wire (which was mentioned to have been weighed, in order to compute the proportion of the weight to the length) was a quarter of an inch in diameter, and as the strength of wire of different sizes is as the squares of their diameters, wire of the size directed for the fences will be to that examined by Muschenbrock as 25 to 4, or more than six times stronger, and will therefore sustain 2812 pounds before it breaks: and though the wire stretched from one stanchion to another, with an interval of 7 feet, will not sustain a force at right angles to its direction so great as in the line of direction itself, yet the force it will actually sustain in this way must be very considerable; for the wire being of an elastic nature, and running freely through the stanchions, will stretch considerably, and will yield to the force so as to form an angle with a right line passing through the stanchions; and after this angle is increased to 30° by the pressure, the force will have less power to break the wire as the angle becomes greater, since, in order to be equal to the resistance, it must be to it as double the tangent of this angle to the secant, from the doctrine of oblique forces.

Besides these considerations depending on the direct strength of the wire, another remains, that should not be omitted, which will enable it still farther to resist the force of cattle, which is, that its small size in proportion to its strength, when cattle press against it violently, will cause it to sink so deep into their skins as to cause them considerable pain, and probably prevent them from repeating the attempt to break it.

From what has been observed of the force requisite to break the wire being greater, as the angle of inclination encreases in which it yields to the pressure, it follows, that it will be stronger when hanging somewhat loose than when stretched tight; but as this loose state might not look so well to some (though to others it would be more agreeable if the curves it formed were equal and uniform) and as it would require more expence in wire, it probably might be preferred to have strong springs fastened to the end of each wire, which might easily be formed of a stronger species of wire twisted spirally; these springs would permit the wires to yield somewhat to a sudden force, and would restore them again to right lines when the force was removed, and would besides have the advantage of preventing the variations of the temperature of the air from causing that injury to the wire which would happen if it was always kept stretched tightly; for in the heat of summer the wire will expand nearly one part in a hundred of its length, and it will contract as much more in hard frost;

if,

if, therefore, it is tightened in summer, the violent contraction in the next frost will reduce it in substance, and occasion the same effect as if it were again submitted to the operation of the wire-drawing engine.

Another method of giving a spring to the wire for the purposes mentioned, which might be preferred to that described, would be to make it all slightly spiral, which might be done by rolling it round a small cylinder, and afterwards drawing it out to the proportion preferred; one revolution of the spiral in three inches would probably be sufficient, but more might be used if thought fit. In this way much smaller wire than what would be sufficient if it were quite straight, might be used with equal effect.

Account of a compensating Pendulum, by Lieutenant H. Kater.
Phil. Jour. v. 20, p. 214.

The principal novelty in Lieut. Kater's pendulum is, that, instead of the various expansions of different metals being made to compensate each other, as in other pendulums of this description, in it the expansion of a deal rod is compensated by that of a zinc tube or frame, about ten inches long.

Two methods of applying the zinc are described: In the first it is cast into the form of a frame, ten inches high, two inches broad at the bottom, and one inch at the top, which is screwed to the cock of the time-piece in a vertical position.

In the top of this frame, to regulate its length, a thick screw of zinc, with a fine spiral, is inserted vertically, through a brass plate half an inch thick, soldered to the frame and tapped to receive it, which has about a quarter of an inch of its top filled square, to admit an instrument being applied to turn it; this zinc screw has a hole drilled through it lengthways, through which a steel wire screw passes freely from the suspending spring of the pendulum, and is secured by a moveable nut resting on the top of the zinc screw. The suspending spring passes through a slit in a brass plate on which the zinc frame rests, and through a hole in the bottom of this frame, and is fastened to a slit in the lower end of the steel wire by a transverse pin. The steel wire screw regulates the length of the pendulum, as the zinc screw does that of the zinc compensation, a thin nut of brass is added to this latter screw above the zinc frame to fix it more steadily at the desired height.

In the second method of applying the zinc compensation, a square tube of zinc, seven inches long, three quarters of an inch in diameter outside, and four-tenths of an inch inside, surrounds the lower end of the deal rod of the pendulum, to the extremity of which it is connected by a zinc screw and steel screw, for the same purposes of regulation as in the first method, but in a reversed position. The zinc screw has a small octagonal plate of brass soldered at its lower end to prevent injury from the nut of the steel screw on which it rests, and to form a sort of index for dividing each revolution of the screw, and of the nut, into eight parts.

The zinc tube, which rises upwards from the nut, passes freely into the center of the weight or bob of the pendulum, through a hole made so as to let it slide as it expands, but close enough to prevent a shake; at its upper end it is fastened to the center of the bob by means of two grooves cut in its sides; corresponding to which two similar grooves are made in the sides of the perforation of the bob, into the cavity formed by which melted lead is poured, after which the external plates of the bob are fastened together.

The pendulum rod for both methods is made of white deal, three quarters of an inch broad, and four-tenths of an inch thick, well seasoned, straight grained, and perfectly free from knots, baked in an oven till its outward surface became a little charred, then cleaned and coated several times with copal varnish, and having its ends dipped in melted sealing wax, to exclude all moisture, which it is of the greatest importance to the perfection of the rod to repel perfectly. A cut is made at the top of the rod by a fine saw, to receive the end of the suspending spring, where it is secured by two or three small pins passing through

through both. When the second mode of applying the zinc is used, the lower end of the deal rod is cut at the sides so as to slide freely in the zinc tube, and at its extremity a brass cap is fastened, from the bottom of which proceeds the deal screw, before described, by which the zinc tube and the bob are sustained.

The deal rod was found by experiments with a pyrometer to expand in one foot 0.0049 parts of an inch with 180° difference of temperature; the expansion of zinc Mr. Kater computes to be to that of deal as 353 to 49, and to that of steel as 353 to 147. And reckoning the steel screw to be 12.5 inches long, the steel suspending spring 3 inches, and the deal rod 37 inches long, in the first method, he calculates that the proper length of the zinc to compensate the expansions of these several parts should be 10.3 inches; and in the second method, reckoning the part of the steel screw included between the nut and the end of the rod to be two inches long, the suspending steel spring to be one inch long, and the deal rod to be 44.5 inches long, he computes that the zinc compensation should be 7.42 inches long.

Mr. Kater attaches a small weight below the bob, where he wishes to regulate the pendulum to the greatest nicety in the second method; which he thinks would be superior to the first, in being more simple and having the compensation shorter, if the zinc tube in it was not excluded from the free contact of the atmosphere, by being included in the bob of the pendulum.

The experiments of Lieut. Kater form a valuable addition to those before made on the same subject. The objection to his second method of applying the zinc compensation might perhaps be obviated by leaving an open passage for the air in the lead of the bob round the zinc tube, and preserving the steadiness of its motion by blunt points, or other small smooth surfaces, or by small friction wheels, projecting from the sides of the aperture.

It would tend much to complete information on this subject, if the earthenware rods for pendulums, proposed by Mr. Troughton, were tried in the same accurate manner in which the deal rods have been in the recited experiments. The principle on which Mr. Troughton recommended rods of pottery was, the permanent contraction observed in this substance by Mr. Wedgwood at a given temperature. Rods of pottery would have the advantage of rods of deal in not being liable to be affected by damp.

Animal Membranes and Charcoal found in Marble.

Mr. Parkinson mentions in his work on the organic remains of a former world, that in several species of marble, which he treated with muriatic or nitric acid, he discovered "membranous substances, which hung from the marble in light flocculent elastic membranes." These marbles were of a species formed by tubipores, madrepores and corallites.

In Kilkenny marble the structure of the madrepores and other testaceous substances which enter into its composition, is beautifully conspicuous from the ground of the marble in which they are imbedded being of a deep black. This circumstance, in Mr. Parkinson's opinion, proves that two distinct lapidifying processes must have occurred in the formation of this marble, and that its coralline or testaceous part had acquired a strong concretion, previous to its being imbedded in the including mass of calcareous matter. A specimen of this marble which Mr. Parkinson examined, in conformity with this opinion, exhibited no membranes when treated with diluted muriatic acid; but a black matter was deposited during the solution of the marble, which being dried and projected on melted nitre immediately deflagrated; which circumstance shows the curious fact that charcoal in substance entered into the composition of this marble. Mr. Parkinson supposes it must have been animal charcoal, from shells and corallines being visible in the marble; but this does not prove the absence of vegetable coal, nor is it, indeed, easy to determine the nature of the coaly substance,

substance, since we know that vegetable coal lying in contact with animal substances acquires all the characters of animal coal sufficiently to be mistaken for it.

The composition of calcareous cements may derive improvement from the above discoveries of the real state in which the component parts of marbles and limestones exist in them. The analysis which leads to improve synthesis, or the composition of substances beneficial to the arts, is certainly the most useful, and we are happy to find is acquiring more attention than it formerly received.

Account of the valuable qualities of the Irish Fiorin Grass, from a Memoir by Dr. Wm. Richardson, formerly F.T.C.D. Comm. Ag. Board. v. 6.

The valuable qualities of the Fiorin grass have long been known to the common farmers of Ireland, but hitherto have escaped the notice of scientific agriculturists. Dr. Richardson's memoir will make this grass universally known, and it is to be hoped that the benefits to be derived from it will be as generally experienced, at a time when agricultural improvement excites so much merited attention, and so many gentlemen of property are eager to put in practice discoveries that promise such material advantage.

The Fiorin grass is indigenous in Ireland, and is of the species of the *agrostis stolonifera*. It is found in greatest abundance naturally in the morasses and mountains, because on rich soil the other grasses contend with it to advantage, but are not hardy enough to endure the wet and cold in which Fiorin grass thrives. Dr. Richardson having heard much of this grass, resolved to make experiments on it to determine its merit, which he found fully to equal report. In the month of March he procured several sods of Fiorin grass, which is easily distinguished at that season by its long white strings; he tied the strings of one sod about a stick two feet long, and though these were dead to all appearance, yet, when the weather became warm, they began to bud at the joints, and the buds soon produced green shoots. This quality of the strings induced the Dr. to propagate the grass from them, which he performed by spreading them on a plot of his garden, in the month of May, and covering them with mould; they soon vegetated and produced a thick sward capable of being mown in September. This grass spread spontaneously twenty-eight inches beyond the limits of the plot, and formed a sod completely impenetrable to weeds and every other species of grass.

Another plot of the grass planted in the same manner, which had been prepared for irrigation, had water ran over it when the shoots were considerably advanced, and they throve far more luxuriantly than those in the preceding experiment. As the shoots soon became extremely long, some of them were tied up to sticks like peas, when they produced new shoots at the joints, which hung down and made a singular appearance.

Dr. Richardson also tried this grass in a coarse, sour, ungenial piece of ground, which was only prepared for it by inverting the sods in December, and slightly raking the surface in spring. Part of this was planted in May, with sets of the grass, and the rest with strings; both came up equally well, they were sprinkled over with compost, and in August began to shoot in every direction, and formed a compact sward in October. Some sour moor ground adjoining, scarcely above the level of the stagnant water, was planted with strings of this grass, and a small part of it with the roots of the *festuca fluitans*, and the whole was then irrigated. The Fiorin shoots soon proceeded in all directions, and left no space for those of the *festuca fluitans*, and the whole became an uniform sward. These two experiments prove that cold sour bottoms may, at a small expence, be converted into the most valuable pasture or meadow by the Fiorin grass.

The Fiorin grass thrives also on a thin dry soil as well as on a wet one: this fact is demonstrated from its flourishing on all the steepes near the northern coasts of Ireland, particularly at the Giants Causeway, where they are covered

with it, and where the roots force their way through the crevices of the rocks, and even into the intervals between the pillars of the Causeway. It also grows spontaneously very far up on the bleakest and wettest mountains of Ireland, which Dr. Richardson thinks the most important fact relative to it. He has seen it thriving on the highest ridges of the mountains in Derry, as high as the road extended. The great difference of soils on which the Fiorin thrives, induced Dr. Richardson to suppose there might be two varieties of it, and to prove this, he brought sets and strings of it from the driest situations, and planted them in the wettest; but they flourished with equal luxuriance as those from a wet soil. This property of the Fiorin, of thriving in such opposite soils, has led him to make experiments on other grasses for the same quality; and he is now trying the *festuca fluitans* and *alopecurus geniculatus* with this design, as well on dry soils as on rich soils, and under irrigation.

The Fiorin grass appears to Dr. Richardson not to be known in England, since no mention of it is made by any English agricultural writer; but he thinks it highly probable that it is the same grass which has been so much admired in the celebrated Orcheston meadow near Salisbury, which was first noticed by Ray, who says its shoots were twenty-four feet long, and which so many botanists have visited without making any known attempt to cultivate.

The valuable qualities of Fiorin for grazing Dr. Richardson can answer for from his own experience; he has heard it much commended for hay, and has no doubt of its value in this respect also from what is known of the produce of the Orcheston meadow, though it ripens very late, unless forwarded by irrigation. He thinks it best propagated by planting the sets and strings, as there is little hope of succeeding with the seeds, on account of the great delicacy and slow growth of the young tendrils.

Low moory ground, Dr. Richardson thinks, may be best prepared for this grass, when not too wet, by taking two crops of potatoes previously, on ridges, with furrows of equal breadth. On heathy and wet mountains it spreads so rapidly, that the shoots may be planted eighteen inches asunder, and the only care necessary will be to exterminate any rushes which chance to spring up.

The valuable qualities of the Fiorin grass, particularly its thriving so well on thin elevated soils, renders it peculiarly applicable to the improvement of vast tracts of land in the west of England, which now are little more productive than the deserts of Africa. The extensive forest of Dartmore, which contains so many thousand acres, is mostly of this description, and a great part of Exmore is nearly in the same state. There are also many other tracts of land in England where it would be found highly beneficial; but in Scotland, of which so large a portion consists of land of the above nature, the introduction of the Fiorin grass seems to promise more proportional advantages than in any other part of the united kingdom.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We willingly second the wish expressed in the letter of a constant reader, that information may be communicated of the best means of preventing the fatal effects of the manufacture of white-lead to the workmen employed in it. The difference of drying it in earthen pans instead of on chalk, does not seem sufficient to obviate the evil, nor is it at all apparent how this should prevent the fine particles of the lead from flying about as much as before. Perhaps our correspondent will have the goodness to procure somewhat more particular and circumstantial information on the subject, and to mention the manufactory where the new process is used.

In consequence of Mr. Lamb's letter, his apparatus for distilling sea-water has been visited: if it will be any service to him, we can give our testimony of its compactness, the little space it requires, the economy of the process, and its obvious utility in long voyages, without in the least invalidating our opinion, stated

stated in a former number, of the superiority and priority of Dr. Irving's process for procuring fresh water from the steam of that used in cooking.

A newspaper is the proper vehicle for Mr. Dumbell's notice; but it shall be printed on our wrapper, if he will pay for it as an advertisement.

Mr. Pilton's last note arrived too late for inserting its contents in the present number, in which he will find proof that his former letters have not been neglected.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX.

A memorial was lately presented to the Board of Trade, signed by about 600 land-owners, graziers, salesmen, butchers, and others, in which it was set forth that the Market-place at Smithfield, is much too small to contain the live cattle necessary for the supply of the Metropolis. That the cattle often bruise and lame, and sometimes trample upon and kill, each other, by being confined for hours together in a crowded state in the Market; and some of them are maimed and bruised in a shocking manner, by the waggons, carts, and drays, driven through Smithfield during the market hours. That the cattle sold at Smithfield exceed in value five millions sterling per annum, and the loss sustained by the owners of the cattle from the above-mentioned causes, is not less than 40,000*l.* per annum. That many representations have been made to the Corporation of London (as proprietors of the Market) for redress, and the memorialists, after having been kept seven years in suspense, now resort to their lordships. That, they were induced to enquire whether another spot could not be found convenient, in point of situation, in the environs of the city, and they have found two such situations to the northward, at a short distance from the present Market-place, and double the size of it, to which large and convenient avenues may be made, and at less than one-fifth part of the estimated expence of the proposed partial enlargement of the present Market-place by the corporation. Memorialists therefore pray that they may have the assistance of the Board in an application to Parliament, for a bill to establish a new Market of sufficient extent, and in a convenient situation, or of investing powers in Memorialists to effect the same at their own expence.

The following is the quantity of Strong Beer brewed by the first twelve Houses in London, from the 5th July, 1808, to the 5th January, 1809:—

	<i>Barrels.</i>		<i>Barrels.</i>
Barclay	64,361	Combe	25,439
Brown and Parry	48,196	Taylor	18,095
Hanbury	41,554	Goodwyn	15,678
Whitbread	40,719	J. Calvert	14,881
Meux	39,292	Elliott	14,877
F. Calvert	33,628	Clowes	14,693

From a close examination of every person capable of giving information respecting the burning of Drury-lane Theatre, it appears that this destructive conflagration was entirely the effect of accident. It has been clearly ascertained, from those who saw the commencement of the fire, both within and on the outside of the building, that it began in the upper coffee-room, where the plumbers had been at work till past four o'clock on Friday afternoon; and it is supposed to have proceeded from the stove, in which they made a fire to heat their irons. In the original plan of the theatre, no provision was made for a fire-place in that room; and it is known, that both above, below, and on all sides of the stove which was subsequently put up, a great quantity of timber was suffered to remain unremoved. The fire made on Friday by the plumbers appears to have been larger than usual; and some hidden parts of the wood-work near it are supposed to have caught fire unperceived, and to have communicated by degrees along the interior of the wall adjoining to the point

point where the flame was first seen to burst forth. The stories which have been circulated of an unknown woman being seen in the theatre, in a straw bonnet, and of the fire coming up from the Egyptian-hall, are wholly destitute of foundation.

Married. At *St. Mary-le-bonne* Church, Capt. Reade, of the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, to Miss Hoskyns, daughter of the late, and sister of the present, Sir Hungerford Hoskyns, bart. of Harewood, in the county of Hereford. Samuel Chatfield, Esq. of Cooper's-row, to Miss Letitia Lewis, daughter of William Lewis, Esq. of Berner-street.—At *St. George's*, Hanover-square, Capt. James Bowie, 103d Regiment, to Miss Clarissa Milne, eldest daughter of George Milne, Esq. of Wandsworth.—At *St. James's*, Frederick March, Esq. of the Ordnance Office, Tower, to Miss Ford, daughter of Mrs. Jordan.—At *St. Margaret's*, Westminster, Lieut. Col. Barclay, of the 52d Regiment of Foot, to Miss Isabella Colquhoun, of James-street, Westminster.—At the Chapel, in *Winchester-House*, Chelsea, the Rev. Charles Augustus North, third son of the Lord Bishop of Winchester, to Miss Rachel Jarvis, second daughter of Thomas Jarvis, Esq. late of Laverstoke-House, Hants.—At *St. Saviour's*, Southwark, Reader Clarke, Esq. to Martha Douglas Pinhorn, the youngest daughter of Sir John Pinhorn, of Southwark.

Died. In *Baker-street*, Portman-square, the Rev. George Chandler, LL.D. late of Myless, near Chipping-Ongar, Essex.—In *Devonshire-street*, Portland-place, Charles John Carey, Viscount Falkland, and Lord Carey. He was born in 1768, and succeeded to the title in 1796, on the death of his brother, Henry Thomas. His lordship died of a wound received in a duel with Mr. Powell, at whose house he expired. Various reports, the whole of which are erroneous, have appeared, respecting this unfortunate business, but the following particulars may be relied on. Lord Falkland dined at Mr. Powell's house with a large party on the Saturday preceding the duel, the party broke up early, and Lord F. and Mr. P. went to the opera together, having taken plenty of wine. They returned from the opera to Stevens's hotel, Bond-street, and parted as they had met, most intimate friends. On Sunday evening, Lord F. looked in at Stevens's again, and on spying his friend Mr. P. he accosted him in words similar to these—"What, drunk again to night, Pogeey," and it is understood that neither were at this time perfectly sober. Mr. P. did not relish the mode in which he had been accosted, and after a retort, Lord F. snatched a cane from a gentleman's hand, and used it about his friend. The waiter and some gentlemen present extricated Mr. P., who retired. On the following morning Lord F. went to Mr. P.'s house, and apologized, attributing his rash conduct to inebriation. Mr. P. observed, that he could not accept of his lordship's apology, unless made at Stevens's, before the persons who were present at the outrage, or to make a public one in another way. Lord F. could not accede to this proposition; but in the afternoon of the same day (Monday) Captain Cotton waited on him from Mr. P., to state, that if he (Lord F.) would allow Capt. C. to make the public apology for him at Stevens's, he would be satisfied. Lord F. was unwilling to go further than he had done at Mr. P.'s house, and shortly after Mr. P. sent him a challenge. The parties met at Golders-Green. They fired together, by agreement, and Mr. P.'s ball wounded his antagonist in the abdomen, who immediately fell. As soon as he could be removed, he was conveyed to Mr. P.'s house, where he expired on Wednesday morning. On opening the body, it appeared that the ball had passed directly across the cavity of the belly, and lodged in the back bone. In its passage, it had wounded several vessels, the blood from which had settled in the cavity, and was in a putrid state, and one of the large intestines was also wounded. The verdict of the coroner's jury was "*Wilful murder by some person or persons unknown.*" Lord Falkland was a descendant of the famous and virtuous Viscount of that name, Secretary of State under Charles I. and killed, too soon for his country, in 1643, at the second battle of Newbury. He was bred to the sea service, and had manifested great gallantry in his profession on several occasions, and acquired a considerable fortune by captures. In consequence of some convivial excesses on board his vessel, he was dismissed the service a year or two ago,

but

but had lately been restored to his rank in the navy, and appointed to a 74 gun ship. His Lady, whom he married in the West Indies in the year 1803, was the daughter of a merchant of the first respectability. She has three sons and a daughter, the eldest son, who is only five years old, succeeds to the peerage, which is one of the few instances in which Scottish titles are held by English families.—In *Whitehall*, aged 79, Mrs. Cornwall, relict of the Right Hon. C. Woollran Cornwall, Speaker of the House of Commons, and sister to the late Earl of Liverpool.—In *Grosvenor-square*, aged 75, Her Grace the Duchess of Bolton.—In *St. James's-square*, aged 36, Capt. Caruthers, Brigade-Major, to General Craufurd, and lately returned from Spain.—In *St. James's-place*, aged 79, General Mordaunt.—At Earl Spencer's office apartments, *Little St. James-street*, T. Harrison, Esq. of Woolverton, Bucks, in the 76th year of his age.—In *Bruton-street*, aged 85, The Right Hon. The Earl of Orford. His lordship was the nephew of the famous Sir Robert Walpole, afterwards Earl of Orford, and had sat many years in the House of Peers, as Baron Walpole of Wooltorton. In consequence of the decease of the former Earl of Orford, he succeeded to the barony of Walpole of Houghton, and during the late administration was created Earl of Orford. His lordship's eldest son, Lord Walpole, who succeeds to the title and estate, sat many years in the Lower House, as member for Lynn, in Norfolk. The late Earl, like his venerable precursor to another world, the late Duke of Ancaster, (p. 275) was greatly afflicted by deafness, and, while in the House of Peers, generally used an ear-trumpet. So long as true nobility, nobility of mind and conduct, no less than of birth and station, shall be considered as deserving the best regards and esteem of men, so long will such characters as that of the late venerable Earl of Orford be had in respectful remembrance. By no means implicitly assenting to the "world's false estimate of things," he appreciated no higher than they deserved the gifts of rank and fortune, but used them with munificence for honourable and useful purposes. Those qualities which are the most shining ornaments of elevated station, piety without ostentation, liberality of mind, kind attention to the wants and wishes of others, extended bounty, an hospitality rarely equalled in these times, and an independent public spirit, were the distinguished features of his lordship's character. He lived revered and happy to an advanced age, with honour and integrity inviolate, and died universally lamented.

Quisquis

Ambitione malâ, aut argenti pallet amore,
Quisquis luxuriâ, audito

In *Cadogan-place*, The Right Hon. Dowager Lady Ashburton, widow of the late Lord Ashburton, better known as John Dunning, Esq. Solicitor General; who, while a member of the Lower House of Parliament, moved and carried the important question "That the influence of the crown had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished."—In *Doctors Commons*, aged about 60, French Lawrence, D. C. L. and one of the members for the city of Peterborough, which he had represented during part of four parliaments. This eminent Civilian received his first education at Bristol, from whence he was removed to Winchester. He then became a member of Corpus Christi college Oxford, where he proceeded M. A. 1801, and was created D. C. L. October 19, 1787. Being intended for the study of Civil Law, he entered himself a member of the college of Advocates, and at length acquired great practice in Doctors Commons. His talents first introduced him to the notice and friendship of the celebrated Edmund Burke, and in consequence of the influence of that gentleman, he was retained by the managers on the trial of Warren Hastings. He first became known to the public by the active part which he took in the memorable contest for Westminster, in the year 1784, in writing for Mr. Fox, particularly in the Opposition Newspapers of that period. Though his subsequent exertions were of a very different kind, he was the author of many election ballads, which at that time were highly popular with the party. As some recompense for his zeal and his services, the party patronized the publication of *The Rolliad*, of which he was, indeed, one of the authors, as well

as of *The Probationary Odes*, and these works proved a source of considerable emolument to him. Dr Lawrence then began to be ambitious of a seat in the House of Commons, and for that purpose, as well, indeed, as from a high admiration of Mr. Burke, attached himself particularly to that great ornament of the British senate, by whose interest with Earl Fitzwilliam, the Doctor was gratified in his desire of Parliamentary honours. From this time he considered himself rather as the adherent of Mr. Burke, than as an implicit follower of the party with which that great man had hitherto acted; and when the French Revolution induced Mr. Burke to withdraw himself from Mr. Fox and his friends, Dr. Lawrence traced the steps of Mr. Burke, and remained inflexibly attached to that gentleman and his principles, till the world was deprived of his great talents. The Doctor, however, had for some time wisely considered that politics afforded but an uncertain mean of support, and therefore directed his attention to the civil law, and by his practice in the Ecclesiastical and Admiralty Courts, gradually acquired a considerable fortune. Mr. Burke had indeed derived great advantage from the Doctor during the prosecution of Mr. Hastings, as he was indefatigable in exploring and arranging the documents necessary in that arduous and complicated transaction. The public are indebted to the Doctor for a complete edition of the works of Mr. Burke, which will for ever remain a monument of the vast talents and varied acquisitions of that extraordinary man. Dr. Lawrence, possessed extensive knowledge and good sense, and these qualities characterised his efforts in Parliament. He was a worthy, well meaning character, and his abilities, if not shining, were solid, and highly respected by all parties, as appeared from the following eulogium, pronounced by Mr. Whitbread, in the debate on the Orders in Council, on the 6th ulto. "Now Dr. Lawrence is dead, I am sure there is no one in this House, but will do justice to his memory. Now that party animosity is silent, let justice, let gratitude, let a sense of our dignity as a house awaken, and let us acknowledge with one common voice, that we have lost a man, whose like we shall not soon see again. Would to Heaven, that his skirt only had fallen amongst us. I should then not have feared, under its influence and inspiration, to oppose myself to the learned advocates, whom I see ranged against me."—Suddenly, at his apartments in the Strand, Mr. Eastmore, formerly a provincial actor of some celebrity.—In *Piccadilly*, Miss Moseley, daughter of Mr. Moseley, of Langley. Mrs. Moseley was going home inside one of the Bath coaches, with her daughter, who was not in a perfect state of health, and was leaning her head out of the window, the door suddenly flew open, the child fell out, and her clothes became entangled in the hind wheel, and she was killed on the spot. At *Linchouse*, the Rev. George Williams, lecturer of Allhallows, Lombard-street, and of St. Anne, Middlesex.—At *Enfield*, aged 74, Richard Gough, Esq. a gentleman well known in the literary world, whose extensive erudition was only excelled by the sterling worth of his private character. He has bequeathed his extensive and very valuable collection of printed books and manuscripts to the Bodleian Library.

Lieut.-Colonel Stewart (page 270) entered the army at a very early period of life, and in 1755 was particularly distinguished at the battle of Monongahela in North America, where he commanded a troop of light-horse raised principally as a body-guard to the Commander-in-chief, General Braddock. During that bloody action he had two horses shot under him, and after the General had received his mortal wound, and the remnant of the army had retreated, he contrived, with the assistance of only four privates of his own troop, (the rest being either killed or wounded) to carry the Commander-in-chief off the field, across a broad river, under a heavy fire from the enemy, thereby rescuing his person from the cruelty of the savages. With that truly good and great man, the late General Washington, who commanded the colonial forces in the above engagement, Col. Stewart preserved an uninterrupted friendship and intimacy, and at the breaking out of the American war, endeavoured to remove the very erroneous opinions the ministers of that day had formed of the General's character and military abilities, but most unfortunately other advice prevailed. Towards the latter end of the war he was brought

brought up from Scotland for the purpose of being sent with overtures to the American general; but delays, indecisions, and at length the resignation of the minister, finally prevented that measure being resorted to. Col. Stewart will be long and sincerely regretted by all who enjoyed his friendship, as one not only possessed of the best abilities and great knowledge of the world, but of the most benevolent qualities of the heart, together with those polite accomplishments and amiable manners, which are the true characteristics of the finished gentleman.

BERKSHIRE.

Married. At *Newbury*, the Hon. and Rev. Edward Grey, rector of Pease-more, Wilts, to Charlotte, second daughter of James Croft, Esq. of Greenham Lodge.

Died. Mr. Richard Streeting, nursery-man, of Windsor, after a long and painful illness, occasioned by smoking a pipe, which caused a cancer in his lip, by not waxing the end of his pipe before he put it to his mouth.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The Chancellor's two gold medals, for the Encouragement of Classical Learning, are this year adjudged to Messrs. Edward Hall Alderson, and John Standly, the first and second wranglers, both of Caius college, who are also elected Fellows of that Society.

The following gentlemen have been admitted to degrees, viz.

The Rev. George Varenne of *Bene't-college*, rector of Westley, and vicar of Elm cum Emneth, *Doctor in Divinity*:—John Gale Dalton Thring, Esq. of *St. John's-college*, *Bachelor in Civil Law*.—The Rev. John Houghton, of *Christ-church*, *Master of Arts*; and Messrs Henry Chapman, and Sidney Streatfield, of *Trinity-college*, C. Owen, of *Christ-college*, and W. J. H. B. Folkes, of *Jesus-college*, *Bachelors of Arts*.

Married. At *Soham*, Joseph Fairman, Esq. of Thorley Hall, Herts, to Miss Frances Dobede, third daughter of Mr. John Dobede, of *Soham-place*.

Died. At *Cambridge*, Lieutenant Youngs, of the 24th regiment of dragoons. He served thirteen years in India, and was dangerously wounded at the battle of Delhi under Lord Lake.

CHESHIRE.

Married. At *Astbury*, John Antrobus, Esq. of Cheam, Surrey, to Mrs. J. Bence.

Died. Aged 67, Sarah, wife of John Phillips, Esq. of Bank Hall, near Stockport, the last surviving daughter of the late George Leigh, Esq. of Oughtrinton Hall.—Mr. H. Gregory, of the Woodhouses near Frodsham. He had dreamed that he would live only twenty-four days longer, and three days before his death, enquired what day it was; on being told, he replied that his time was not yet come, but drew very nigh; and on the twenty-fourth day after his dream actually expired.—At *Tarrin*, aged 102, of a mortification in his leg, occasioned by the bite of a dog, Mr. John Knott.—At *Little Hulston*, aged 73, Mr. Richard Jones, a man of unaffected simplicity of manners, hospitable, human-, and friendly; as a practical agriculturist, he had perhaps few equals, and though in a manner without the first elements of science, he brought the practice of irrigation to a state of great perfection. He has left behind him many prizes gained from the different Agricultural Societies in the northern counties, of most of which he was a most zealous and active member, and what is of still greater value in the estimation of his surviving relatives, has also left behind him the character of an honest man.

CORNWALL.

Died. At *Pentillie Castle*, Cornwall, aged 28, Mrs. Tillie, relict of the late James Tillie, Esq.—Mrs. Rogers, wife of Capt. Rogers, of Antron-lodge, near Helston, Cornwall, daughter of the late Major Oldham, and niece to William Oldham, Esq. of Leicester.—At *Pendennis Castle*, of a typhus fever, aged 20, Mr. Brailsford, assistant surgeon of the North Hants Militia.—At *Truro*, Serjeant

Serjeant Abraham McCraw, of the 13th Light Dragoons, who, after having served his king and country honestly and faithfully for 38 years, fell a victim to the typhus fever brought into the barracks at Truro, by a detachment of the 10th Light Dragoons, from Spain. He was buried with every military honour, and attended to his grave by all the officers and men of his regiment quartered at Truro.

CUMBERLAND.

In the year 1750, there were only eleven sail of vessels belonging to Maryport, the largest of which did not exceed ninety-six tons.—Their number in 1808, is one hundred and six, some of which are of nearly three hundred tons burthen.

Arrangements are making at Whitehaven, for the institution of a Marine School, under the patronage of the Earl of Lonsdale. There can be no doubt that an establishment so suited to the rising consequence of that port, will meet with ample encouragement.

Died. At Carlisle, aged 42, Joseph Hodgson, Esq. Town Clerk and Alderman of that City, and formerly Clerk of the Peace for the county.—Aged 26, Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson. This lady was a milliner in Carlisle, when it was taken by the Highlanders in 1745.—At Ulverston, aged 73, Mrs. Wordsworth, relict of the late Richard Wordsworth, Esq. Collector of the Customs at Whitehaven.

DERBYSHIRE.

Died. The Rev. Edward Sacheverell Willmott, rector of Kirk Langley. He was formerly of St John's college, Cambridge. B.A. 1787. M.A. 1791.

DEVONSHIRE.

Married. At Berry-Pomeroy, Thomas Harris Esq. of Barnstaple to Miss Walker.—By special license, at the ancient church of Wembury, Henry Alworth Merewether, Esq. of Southampton-street, Bloomsbury, barrister-at-law, to Miss Eliza Maria Lockyer, of Wembury-house, one of the daughters of the late Thomas Lockyer, Esq. of Wembury-house.

Died. At Plymouth, in the prime of life, Mr. T. G. Williams, assistant-surgeon to the 2d Royal Veteran Battalion, son of Mr. T. Williams, surgeon of Swansea.—This gentleman had been in the East Indies, and almost miraculously escaped from the dreadful massacre at Vellore; his merit obtained him the appointment he held at his death, and he fell a victim to a fever brought on by incessant attention to the troops lately arrived from Spain.—At the Royal Naval Hospital, in consequence of a wound he received at the battle of Corunna, Ensign Thomas Griffin, of the 8th regiment. He has left a wife and child to deplore his loss.—Aged 60, Mrs. Fisher, of the Half-Moon inn. The deceased was so extremely corpulent, that in order to remove her from her chamber to a lower apartment, preparatory to her interment, it became necessary to take out the door frame and remove the staircase, no window in the inn being sufficiently capacious to admit the enormous coffin to go through.

DORSETSHIRE.

Married. At Cranbourne, William White, Esq. of Salisbury, to Miss Stillingfleet, daughter of the late Lient. Stillingfleet of the Royal Navy.

Died. At Bridport, aged 73, Nicholas Bools, Esq. ship-builder, and one of the aldermen of that borough.—At Weymouth, aged 57, John Andrews, Esq.—At Yenson, aged 75, Thomas Courtney, labourer. Soon after eating part of a barley cake, he was seized with a vomiting, &c. which terminated his life; a part of the same cake, on the following day, being eaten by Jane Clarke, aged 50, and John Gulliford, aged four years, after six hours indisposition, they likewise died; the same evening, some of the same cake was given to a dog, which died in consequence a few hours after. On Tuesday the three bodies were opened and inspected by three surgeons and a physician, who were unanimously of opinion, that their deaths were all occasioned by mineral poison, (probably arsenic). On the Inquest being held, after a minute investigation of two days, the jury returned a verdict of *Wilful Murder against some*

some person or persons unknown. The perpetrator of this horrid transaction remains undiscovered.—One of the French officers on parole at Wincanton, Dorsetshire, was lately found dead in a field near his lodgings; a musket was lying beside him, the muzzle of which it is supposed he had placed in his mouth, moved the trigger with his foot, and blew out his brains. His connections in France are said to be respectable, but not hearing from them as usual, it caused a depression of spirits, which terminated as above described.—Coroner's verdict, *Lunacy*.

DURHAM.

By the annual report of the Durham Infirmary, it appears, that from November 22, 1807, to the same day in 1808, 254 patients had been admitted, besides 25 which remained at that time on the books; of these 206 have been cured, 47 relieved, 5 were incurable, 7 died.

Married. At *Houghton-le-spring*, Warren Maude, Esq. paymaster of the South Lincoln Militia, to Hannah, daughter of Thomas Wilkinson, Esq. of Houghton.

Died. At *Bishopwearmouth*, aged 44, Robert Hayton, Esq. shipowner, formerly major of the Sunderland Volunteer Infantry.—At *Monkwearmouth*, aged 99, Mrs. Elizabeth Middleton, late of Stockton.—At *Sunderland*, aged 44, Edward Wylam, Esq.—At *Dublin*, John Smith, a private in the 7th Garrison battalion, formerly a journeyman flax dresser in Gateshead, where his widow now resides. He is supposed to have been murdered in crossing the bridge, on his return from the city to the barracks, his body having been found in the river, shockingly mangled. He has left a family of six children, whose distresses arising from the difficulty of finding employment, five years ago, drove him into the army. As a self-taught scholar his acquirements in Mathematics, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, were very considerable. He read with facility those languages, and has left behind him a curious and valuable collection of books, the only fund by the sale of which his widow and children look for subsistence.

ESSEX.

Died. At *Chelmsford*, Mrs. Hannah Edwards, relict of the late Peter Edwards, Esq. of Halstead.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Died. At *Gloucester*, aged 55, Mr. William Birt, Lay Clerk, and Deans verges of the Cathedral, and master of the General workhouse of that city. His mourning children and family will long have to lament the loss of an indulgent and tender parent and friend; the integrity and fidelity with which he constantly discharged the duties of his situation in life, is best testified by the respect in which he was universally held. One, well acquainted with his many virtues offers this humble tribute of regard at the shrine of departed worth.—At *Cheltenham*, after a lingering illness, sustained with exemplary fortitude and resignation, Mrs. Boswell, relict of John Boswell, Esq. of Ballymony, Wicklow, Ireland, and sister to the late Earl of Bellamont, whose superior faculties, and dignified manners, endeared her to her family and extensive acquaintance.—At *Lawrence hill*, near Bristol, aged 53, Edward Barnard Davies, Esq. many years an eminent attorney at Usk in Monmouthshire.—At *Bristol*, Mr. Priest. In consequence of a disagreement at the Theatre with Mr. Smith, a challenge ensued, which was decided in a field near the Montague Tavern. The parties were attended by their seconds, and by agreement, fired together; at the first discharge, Mr. Priest was wounded in the upper part of the thigh. After being taken from the ground he suffered amputation, and is since dead. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury was Wilful Murder against the principal and seconds. The deceased was in good business as a mercer; Mr. Smith is an attorney; and, according to report, the author of many excellent criticisms on performers and performances, brought forward at the Bristol Theatre.

HAMPSHIRE.

The following singular circumstance lately took place on board the Warren Hastings recently launched at Portsmouth, while the vessel was moored at the

Mother Bank :—The morning being fine, it was deemed necessary to get up the top-gallant-masts, which occupied some hours.—About three o'clock in the afternoon the atmosphere was overcast to the Westward, and every appearance indicated the approach of a violent storm. Several alert sailors were sent aloft to strike the top-gallant-masts as speedily as possible, but when lowering them the wind blew tremendously, and the rain fell in torrents, accompanied by heavy claps of thunder. In the midst of the confusion, occasioned by the storm, three distinct balls of fire were emitted from the heavens; one of them fell into the main-top-mast-cross-trees, killed a man on the spot, and set the main-mast on fire, which continued in a blaze for the space of nearly five minutes, and then went out. The seamen both aloft and below were almost petrified with fear. At the first moment of returning recollection, a few of the hands ran up the shrouds to bring down their dead companion, when the second ball struck one of them, and he fell, as if shot by a cannon, upon the guard iron in the top, from which he bounded off into the cross jack braces. Finding that he still survived, he was relieved from his perilous situation, and brought upon deck with his arm much shattered and burnt. This poor fellow was expected to undergo immediate amputation, as the only means of saving his life. The Third ball came in contact with a Chinese, killed him, and wounded the main-mast in several places; the force of the air, from the velocity of the ball, knocked down Mr. Lucas, the Chief Mate, who fell below, but was not much hurt. For some time after the storm subsided, a nauseous, sulphureous smell continued on board the ship.

Married. At *Newton Longville*, the Rev. William John Chepnell, of the Island of Guernsey, to Miss Harriet Lemesurier, daughter of the late Havilland Lemesurier, Esq. Commissary-General to the Forces in the Mediterranean.

Died. At *Andover*, Dr. John Hemming, formerly Physician to the Osculton Dispensary.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

Died. At *Hereford*, of a paralytic affection, the Rev. Thomas Evans, one of the Prebendaries of that Cathedral, and Vicar of Yazor, in that diocese.—At *Ross*, aged 76, Mr. Flack, the late surviving grandchild of Vanderford Kyrle, Esq. kinsman and heir to the celebrated Man of Ross.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

Died. At *Sawtry*, aged 86, Mrs. Saunders, mother of the Rev. Mr. Saunders, rector of Sawtry, All Saints.

KENT.

Died. At *Canterbury*, Benjamin Kelly, Esq. formerly of St. John's-college, Cambridge.—At *Chatham*, of a typhus fever, brought on by violent exertion during the retreat of our army to Corunna, Lieut. Halifax, of the Royal Artillery Drivers.—At *Ramsgate*, aged 78, the Earl of Dunmore, father to Lady Augusta D'Ameland. He is succeeded in his titles and estates by Viscount Fincastle.—Of a typhus fever, Mr. Charles Smith, surgeon to the 2d Royal Surrey regiment. This excellent and worthy young man met an early dissolution by too strict attention to his hospital, which receives the invalids from Spain, and are much afflicted with typhus fever.—Miss Thorpe, the only daughter of Lady Susan Drew, by her first husband, Joseph Thorpe, Esq. by whom her ladyship has likewise a son, John Thorpe, Esq. a boy of 15, now at school, whose property is the greatest of any commoner, excepting one, in England.—At *New Romney*, aged 76, the Rev. William Wing Fowle, rector of Ivy church and Burmarsh in Romney Marsh. He was formerly of St. John's-college, Cambridge, B. A. 1756, M. A. 1772.

Captain Bouchier, (p. 178) after the glorious action in the West Indies, in 1782, was appointed to the *Hector*, of 64 guns, one of the French prizes, and ordered to bring her home. The *Hector* had suffered greatly in the action, and still more in the dreadful storm which happened soon after, in which the *Ville de Paris*, the *Centaur*, and several other vessels were lost, when she was attacked during the night by two large French frigates: although
his

his ship was nearly a wreck, Capt. Bouchier defended her with the greatest bravery, and succeeded in beating off the frigates, but the Hector suffered so much that she sunk the next day, and the whole crew must have perished, if a Danish merchantman had not fortunately hove in sight, on board of which they were saved. It was in this gallant action that Capt. Bouchier received the wound which disqualified him for active service.

LANCASHIRE.

At the Collegiate church of Manchester, from January 1, to December 31, 1808, inclusive, there have been, Marriages, 1197; Burials, 667; Christenings, Males, 1505; Females, 1488—Total 2993. Comparatively with the preceding year, the Marriages are decreased 218, the Baptisms are decreased 288, and the Burials 183.

Married. At *Liverpool*, James Normansell, Esq. of Manchester, to Margaret, widow of the late James Thompson, Esq.—Broom Wits, Esq. of Champion Hill, in Surry, to Miss Jane Lake, daughter of William Charles Lake, Esq.—At *Manchester*, Paul Chappe, Esq. of the White Cottage, Pendleton, to Mary, second daughter of George Fletcher, Esq.

Died. At *Liverpool*, aged 33, Roger Newton Dale, Esq. banker.—At *Manchester*, Mrs. Dawson, wife of Richard Dawson, Esq.—Aged 22, Mr. William Hibbert, lieutenant of His Majesty's 40th regiment, son of Mr. Samuel Hibbert, of that town.—At *Lancaster*, aged 35, Roger Parkinson, M.D.—The Rev. Thomas Messenger, curate of Overton, near Lancaster. He was drowned in the river Lune, opposite St. George's Quay. Owing to the darkness of the night, he mistook the road leading from Skerton, and walked into the river: he was distinctly heard calling for help; but from the extreme darkness of the night, and no person being near with a boat, no assistance could be rendered. Mr. Messenger was lately of Bewcastle, Cumberland.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

Married. At *Bradley*, Theophilus Harneis, jun. Esq. of Hawerby, captain of the North Wold Cavalry, to Miss Nicholson, of Bradley.—At *Boston*, Henry Clark, jun. Esq. to Miss Elizabeth Claypon, daughter of Bartholomew Claypon, Esq. banker.

Died. At *Lincoln*, aged 73, Mrs. Nelthorpe, widow of John Nelthorpe, Esq. late of Little Grimsby-house. Mrs. Nelthorpe was the youngest daughter of the late Robert Cracroft, Esq. of Hackthorne, by his first wife Miss Brown. Her death will be severely lamented by the poor, to whom she was on all occasions a liberal benefactress, as well as by an extensive circle of friends whom she enlivened by her vivacity and cheered by her hospitable attentions. Her Christian piety, which was genuine and unaffected, was most strongly displayed in the patience and resignation with which she endured for a great length of time, the painful progress of a long illness. She has left one son, John Nelthorpe, Esq. and one daughter, Lady W. Beauclerk.—At *Alford*, aged 79, Cranmer Kenrick, Esq.—At *Grimsby*, aged 95, Mrs. Hannah Birkitt, relict of the late Mr. Peter Birkitt, of Healing.—At *Gate Burton*, near Gainsborough, aged 85, Mr. Edward Norwood.—At *Broughton*, Mrs. Radcliffe, not, as has been said in many of the country papers, the celebrated authoress of the Romance of the Forest, &c. but the mother of Mr. Radcliffe the husband of that lady.—At *Brigg*, aged 66, John Goodwin, Esq.—Aged 72, Henry Bentley, Esq.—At *Earlthorpe*, aged 82, William Wray. He had been clerk of that parish fifty-seven years, and except the prevention arising from one day's sickness, is not remembered by the parishioners to have been on any occasion absent from his duty.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

Married. At *Leicester*, the Rev. Robert Williams, of Worthin, Salop, to Miss Williams, of the New-work.

Died. At *Seagrave*, aged 47, the Rev. R. A. Ingram, rector of that parish, deservedly esteemed as a gentleman and a scholar. Some of his writings are already before the public, and the last, on the "Causes of the Increase of Methodism

thodism and Dissension," has passed the ordeal of the Edinburgh reviewers, who give him great credit for his zealous endeavours to check the progress of Methodism.

NORFOLK.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Agricultural Society of this county, held at Lynn, was very respectably attended, and our worthy representative, T. W. Coke, Esq. presided. Previous to the dinner some choice sheep were exhibited by Mr. Coke and Mr. Money Hill, of the South-down breed; and by Colonel Fitzroy and Mr. Money, of the Leicester. A shearling of the first-named gentleman being slaughtered, weighed 6st. 2lbs.—tallow 1st. 6lbs, which was guessed within a pound by Mr. Kett, of Norwich. After dinner, the healths of the King—Prosperity to the Society—Mr. M. Hill—Mr. Coke, The Rev. St. John Priest—Colonel Cunningham—and The absent Members—were drunk with great eclat; together with breeding in all its branches—Small in size and great in value—Prosperity to the town of Lynn—The man who dares to be honest in the worst of times—which last toast induced a gentleman to give Colonel Wardle, and the same was received with three cheers: Friendship in marble, and Animosity in dust, terminated their libations.

Soon after dinner, on the health of Colonel Cunningham being drunk, Mr. Coke took occasion to recommend, in his usual handsome manner, the proposals of that gentleman for purchasing Scotch and other cattle by commission, as the most sure means of obtaining the pure breed of the respective kinds of stock, which he thought had been of late years too little attended to; and the Colonel's terms, he conceived, to be very moderate, as he only required 10s. 6d. each for the larger sorts, and 5s. for the smaller highlanders—a sum considered very reasonable for the advantages to be derived from his acknowledged judgment in the selection of stock, which now were generally culled over before the drovers reached this county. He also took occasion to recommend some yellow turnip-seed received from Colonel Graham, of Scotland, which grew almost entirely beneath the surface of the earth, and would stand the severest weather, being superior to the Swedish, as he had proved by 16 acres sowed in his plantations this year, which were not injured by the bite of hares or rabbits. He said he should transplant a sufficient quantity to give seed to his numerous agricultural friends.

The model of a portable field barn was shewn at this meeting by Mr. Osborne Butcher. This moveable building is intended to prevent the expensive, but hitherto necessary practice, of removing corn stacks a great distance in the winter. The barn is placed on rollers, to elevate it sufficiently from the ground. Each side contains 8 pannels, 3 feet wide, which are fixed in grooves, and fastened by two iron rests, supporting a wooden bar going across within side. The roof contains the same number of shorter slides or pannels, somewhat similar to a long flat tile, and it (the roof) is 7 feet high and 24 long. The inside of the barn is 16 feet wide, and there are two doors, one at each end, to procure a thorough draft when dressing the corn, with ample room to contain a threshing machine. This portable barn is strong and durable, but yet can be taken to pieces by two men in six hours, removed, and again as firmly erected with equal celerity.

Mr. T. Weavers delivered the engraving from his painting of Mr. Coke. It is but justice to this young but rising artist, to say, that the print has given general satisfaction. The portraits of Mr. Coke, Mr. Walton, and the two shepherds, are most faithful representations of their persons; the scenery in the middle ground, consisting of a view of Holkham-hall, with the surrounding grounds—the church just appearing above the trees—and, in the perspective, the German Ocean—forms altogether a coup d'œil highly interesting, and clearly displaying Mr. Weaver's taste for landscape scenery.

Married. At *Hambledon*, H. T. Custance, Esq. of Weston-house, to Mary, only daughter of the late Miles Bower, Esq. one of His Majesty's counsel, and recorder of Chester.—At *Gorleston*, Samuel Palmer, Esq. of Yarmouth, to Miss Thurtell, of Gorleston.

Died At *Fielddalling*, aged 23, Robert Thomlinson, Esq. youngest son of the

the late Rev. Robert Thomlinson, of Clay next the Sea. His death was occasioned by a fall from a restive house.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Married. By special license, Ignatius Joseph French, Esq. of Canareagh, county Galway, to Maria, second daughter of the Rev. Dean Douglas, of Castle-Douglas, in this county.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Died. At *Alnwick*, aged 73, Nathaniel Davison, Esq. In early life this gentleman was a companion in the travels of the eccentric Wortley Montague; and for many years afterwards was British Consul at Nice and at Algiers. On some trying occasions he exhibited a firmness not often united with such suavity of disposition as his; and these two characteristics, joined with the habits of refined society, stamped on his manners a dignified urbanity, and such impressions of general goodness, that few men sooner conciliated esteem and affection, or longer retained them.—At *Newcastle*, aged 89, Mrs. Ann Wheatley, of Hanover-square.—At *Benton*, Miss *Jemima Bigge*, fourth daughter of the late Thomas Charles Bigge, Esq. of Benton House.—At *North Shields*, aged 82, Mr. William Graham, of Dockway-square, ship-owner.—At *Fuldean*, aged 84, Mrs. Yule. While standing near the chimney her clothes caught fire, and occasioned her almost instant death.—At *Washington Wood*, aged 101, Sarah Hudson. She retained her senses to the last and never had an hour's sickness.—At *Eglingham*, aged 85, Mrs. Compton, widow of William Compton, Esq. of Gainslaw, formerly Recorder of Berwick.

OXFORDSHIRE.

On Friday night, the 3d ult. between eleven and twelve o'clock, a fire was discovered at the S. W. angle of the great quadrangle of Christ Church. Providentially the night was calm, and the fire was overcome at seven o'clock Saturday morning, by the joint exertions of the Members of the University, and the other inhabitants of Oxford. The house of Dr. White, Regius Professor of Hebrew, with all his books and manuscripts, is destroyed; and the ravage extended to some distance from the S. W. angle, towards the Mall on one side, and on the other towards the Tower of the Great Gate, neither of which however, are injured. No life was lost, nor was any one materially hurt; the entire outer wall remains standing apparently undamaged.

During the conflagration at Christ Church College, another fire, of a more destructive nature broke out at Lee-farm (Mr. Hodgkins) 16 miles from Oxford. It broke out in a hen roost, in a spacious farm-yard, and communicated to the stables, over which a man and a boy were sleeping, and who were burnt. Above 20 head of cattle were destroyed, together with several ricks of corn and hay, but the dwelling house was preserved.

The following gentlemen have been admitted to Degrees, viz. BACHELORS OF ARTS.—Messrs. Henry Smith, John Francis Cleaver, John Fortescue Brickdale, Thomas Green, Arthur Cyril Onslow, Thomas Hunt, Riggs Falkiner, Francis Cole, William Brent Brent, Charles Blaney Cavendish Whitmore, Thomas Hinde, and James Paterson, (Grand Compounder) of Christ Church.—Robert Blake and John McCaul, of Balliol College.—Thomas Farrer, William Loxham Farrer, and William Hatsall, of Brasenose.—Frederic Doveton and Henry Daniel Leeves of Corpus Christi.—Octavius Mitchell, Michael de Courcy, Edward Vincent, and John Joze, of Exeter.—John Davies, Benjamin Lewes, and James Powell, of Jesus.—William Slater, of Merton.—Richard Littlehales, of New College.—John Gill, of Queen's.—Samuel Twyford, of Trinity.—Henry Cresswell, of Wadham.—and John Montgomery, of Worcester College.—MASTERS OF ARTS.—Messrs. James William Farrer, Oliver Farrer, (Grand Compounders) and Rev. Mascie Domville Taylor, of Brasenose College.—Rev. Robert Finch and Rev. Benjamin Cheese, of Balliol.—Rev. Hugh Bailye (Grand Compounder) and Henry Smedley, of Christ Church.—Rev. William Jopson Haswell, of Corpus Christi.—Rev. Charles Dymoke William, of Oriel.—Rev. John Whittingham, of Queen's.—Rev. Samuel Davies, of Wadham.—and Rev. Francis Woodcock, of Worcester College, B. A.—BACHELOR IN DIVINITY.

DIVINITY. The Rev. Marmaduke Hervey Matthews, M. A. of *Magdalen College*.—**DOCTORS IN DIVINITY.** The Rev. Francis Mead, B. D. (Grand Comptroller) and Rev. William Alcock, B. D. of *Magdalen College*.

The number of determiners are 146, of whom 50 are classmen.

The Rev. William Buckland, of Corpus Christi College, M. A. is admitted a Fellow of that Society, and Mr. Richardson, commoner of Jesus College, elected a scholar on the foundation.

The Rev. Richard Budd, B. D. Fellow of Corpus Christi, is presented to the Rectory of Recan Llanyhorne, in Cornwall, void by the death of the Rev. John Whitaker, B. D.—The Rev. Benjamin Pope, M.A. Chaplain of Christ Church, is instituted to the living of Caversham, in this county, void by the resignation of the Rev. Lord Aston; and the Rev. John Thompson, M.A. Fellow of Brazenose College, is elected to the perpetual Curacy of Holm Cultram, in Cumberland, vacant by the cession of the Rev. John Pattinson, M. A. of Queen's College.

Died. At *Williamscoth*, near Banbury, aged 67, John Loveday, Esq. D.C.L. one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county.—At *Nethorpe*, aged 65, Richard Williams, Esq. a capital Burgess of the Corporation of Banbury. He served the office of High Sheriff of this county in 1800.

SHROPSHIRE.

Married. At *Shewsbury*, George Chadwick, Esq. of Rochdale, Lancashire, to Miss H. Cooper, daughter of N. Cooper, Esq. of Dinthill.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Married. At *Bath*, John Ormsby Vandeleur, Esq. colonel of the 9th dragoons, to Miss Catherine Glass, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Glasse, of Pencombe, Herefordshire.—At *Evercreech*, John Bradshaw, Esq. of Darcy Lever, Lancashire, to Charlotte Mary, second daughter of the late Samuel Smith, Esq. formerly M. P. for Luggershall.

Died. At *Bath*, aged 76, John Metge, Esq. late one of the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer in Ireland.—Aged 87, Hugford Hassall, Esq. many years a respectable attorney at Sollihall.—At *Queen Camel*, Edward Plucknett, lime-burner. He was found dead upon the kiln, with one hand burnt to a cinder and one foot burnt off.—Found dead, at *Wiceliscoombe*, Martha Webber, aged 102 years: she was grandmother of the noted Damps, the cudgel-players.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Died. Mr. Samuel Harvey, of Hansacre, near Litchfield: he was returning from a friend's house, where he had spent the day, when he unfortunately fell into the canal, and was drowned. It is a remarkable circumstance, that, about six months since, the sister of the person with whom he had spent his last hours, was found drowned in the same place.

SUFFOLK.

Died. At *Great Bradley*, aged 111, the Rev. Mr. Creek, who had been schoolmaster of that place eighty-seven years. For the last twenty years of his life he had been totally blind.—At *Bury*, aged 79, the Rev. Frederic Barnwell: he was formerly of Caius College, Cambridge, B.A. 1753.—John Gowing, of Thorp. In returning from Aldbro' near the haven to the place of his residence with a horse and cart, the wheel struck upon an old pile, which turned it bottom upwards; in that dreadful state he lay three hours under the cart, when the tide came in, and both the man and horse were drowned.

Dr. Shepherd, (p. 182) was formerly of Corpus Christi college, Oxford, M. A. 1757, B. D. 1765, D. D. 1788. His first publication was an "Ode to Love," which appeared in 1756, and was republished under the title of "The Philologist." He was also author of "The Review of a Free Enquiry into the Nature and Origin of Evil, 1759." "Odes Descriptive and Allegorical, 1761." "The Nuptials, a Didactic Poem, in three books, 1762." "Letters to the Author of a Free Inquiry into the Nature and Origin of Evil: to which are added three discourses; 1. On Conscience; 2. On Inspiration; 3. On a Paradisaical

Paradisaical State, 1763." "Hector, a dramatic poem, 1770." "Requisition of Subscription to the xxxix Articles and Liturgy." "A Sermon, Gal. v. 1. 1771." "Bianca, a tragedy, 1772." "a Sermon on Conscience, 1776, Rom. xi. 14, 15." A Sermon, on Inspiration, preached on Whitsunday 1776." "Concio de Statu Paradisi," at Oxford 1776, Eccles. vii. 30. "Miscellanies," 2 vols. 1776. "The Dying Hero, 1779." "Free Examination of the Socinian Exposition of the Prefatory Verses of St. John's Gospel, 1783." "An Essay on Education, in a letter to William Jones, Esq. 1784." "The Ground and Credibility of the Christian Religion, in a course of Sermons preached before the University of Oxford at the Bampton Lecture, 1788." "Polyænus's Stratagems of War, translated from the original Greek, 1793." "Two Sermons on a Future State, 1797," reprinted with a third Sermon, 1799. "A Charge to the Reverend the Clergy of the Archdeaconry of Bedford, delivered at the Easter visitation, 1801." "Notes, critical and explanatory, on the Gospel and Epistles of St. John, 1804." "The New Boethius, or, of the Consolations of Christianity, 1806," inscribed to his brother the Rev. Henry Shepherd, B. D. rector of Brandburton, "in memory of an excellent father, who formed their minds on those principles which only can sustain the shocks of adversity with fortitude, as a pledge of fraternal affection, and a tribute to a studious life passed in private, and to those virtues with which he has adorned the shades of obscurity." "Religious Union Perfective and the Support of Civil Union, 1807." "No False Alarm, or a Sequel to Religious Union, &c. being the result of a parochial visitation through the archdeaconry of Bedford, 1808." He is also said to be the author of "Canons of Criticism extracted from the Beauties of Maty's Review, 1784."

SURREY.

Married. At Lambeth Palace, by his Grace the Archbishop, Lieut.-Colonel Townshend, of Honington-hall, Warwickshire, to Miss Scott, only daughter of the Right Hon. Sir William Scott.—At Camberwell, Samuel Stevens, Esq. of Clare, Suffolk, to Miss Warner, of Dulwich.

Died. At Stockwell, T. Barrett, Esq. proprietor of Vauxhall Gardens.—At Kennington, aged 72, Dr. John Andrews, well known in the literary world.—At Croydon, aged 90, John Partridge, Esq. last surviving son of Henry Partridge, Esq. formerly of Buckenham-house, Norfolk.

SUSSEX.

Died. At the house of her brother, Sir James Bland Burges, at Beauport, Mrs. Head, wife of J. R. Head, Esq.—At the Barracks, near Lewes, Adjutant Walker, of the 82d foot: an officer who had served with distinguished merit in Spain during the late unsuccessful campaign, and who returned from thence to that town, with the remains of the regiment, in perfect health; but, a few days after, he was attacked by the typhus fever, and carried off as above. His remains were interred in St. Ann's church-yard, with military honours, attended by all the officers of the garrison.—At Brighton, William Wade, Esq. lately, and for upwards of forty preceding years, master of the ceremonies at the public rooms. Mr. Wade succeeded Mr. Derrick as master of the ceremonies at Brighton and Bath about the year 1767; he resigned the latter more than twenty years since, but continued to preside at the Brighton rooms, with great credit to himself and pleasure to the distinguished visitors till the summer of last year, when, in consequence of his age, being upwards of eighty, he resigned in favour of Captain Forth, the present master of the ceremonies.

WARWICKSHIRE.

A woman named Rebecca Hodges has been committed to Warwick gaol, for feloniously shooting Mr. Samuel Birch, of Ward End Hall, with a horse pistol loaded with slugs. It appears, that this unfortunate woman had harboured the desperate design in her mind for seven years past, and about a year ago she purchased a pistol with which she perpetrated the crime. She had been several times seen about Mr. B.'s premises, and on Sunday morning she was seen behind the door in one of the outhouses, but was suffered to depart; she had

had remained in the barns and buildings till Monday night, waiting the house-keeper's going to bed; she then, through a window, saw Mr. B. sitting by the fire asleep; she then opened the door, which was only on the latch, and after some time walking about the room, she discharged the pistol at his head; two slugs struck him, one did but little execution, the other has since been extracted from his skull, which has been trepanned by Mr. Vickers; and, owing to his great skill and attention, hopes are entertained of recovery. The young woman was brought to prison by the watchman, disguised in man's clothes; a loaded pistol was found in her hand, and delivered to Mr. Payn, who soon discovered the supposed man was a female. Seven years ago the young woman was a servant in the Birch family, and the only cause she assigns for the rash act was, that she had formed an attachment to Mr. Birch at that time, and was in consequence discharged from her place.

Married. At Birmingham, Charles Timothy Cobb, Esq. of London, to Miss Matilda Roper, daughter of Mr. John Roper, of the Crescent.—At Stratford on Avon, the Rev. Thomas Wyndham, of Hinton, Hants, to Anne, eldest daughter of Walter Stubbs, Esq.

Died. At Atherston upon Stour, aged 71, Mrs. Kenwick, sister of the late Rev. Dr. Kenwick.

The following affecting case of hydrophobia has but lately reached us.—David Hale, a young man of about twenty, son of Mr. Hale, shoe-maker, of Bidford, while leaning over the gate of his father's garden, on the evening of the 1st of September last, observed a cat coming down the garden-walk towards him. As the animal resolved to pass under the gate, the young man placed his foot in the way to prevent her, which she instantly seized, and on putting down his hand to extricate himself, she bit him very severely by the thumb. The father of the young man, hearing a noise, ran out of the house with a stick; he pointed it towards the cat several times, and she as often seized it in the most ferocious manner. Mr. Hale then declared the animal was mad, and immediately destroyed her. The young man went, without delay, to Witniamster, and was, according to the opinions of advisers there, properly dipped in the salt-water, in the hope of averting the dreadful consequences that might otherwise arise from the bite of the animal. He returned home again, and for more than a month enjoyed his usual health. On Tuesday, the 11th of October, the young man was taken ill with the head-ache. On Wednesday his head-ache continued and got worse; and in the evening he had symptoms of a sore throat. On Thursday the soreness of his throat increased; he could not swallow; his head was very bad; and if any liquid were offered him, he was much agitated and convulsed. On Friday he could not suffer any liquid to come near him; but he ate a small bit of toasted bread. He was sensible of his situation, and desired every one not to endanger themselves by attending him. He foamed at the mouth very much, and at times was greatly convulsed. On Saturday his malady increased; and on Sunday he was confined in his bed, raving mad. Two people were constantly employed in wiping the foam from him, which issued from his mouth and nose in large quantities. On Monday morning, the 7th, the unfortunate young man was released from the most dreadful of all human afflictions; he expired about seven o'clock, in the greatest agony.

WILTSHIRE.

Died. Aged 24, Miss Fournier, an amiable young lady, daughter of an opulent farmer at Chipstowe. Miss Fournier had received the addresses of a young man of the name of Fawkes, for the two last years, but in consequence of some disagreement the match was broke off, and the young lady gained another suitor. She had been on a visit at a house half a mile from her residence, and on returning home with her male friend, at ten o'clock, they were attacked by two persons, one of whom knocked the man down with a bludgeon, and the other hurried off Miss F. from the spot. She was found dead in the same field in an hour after this transaction, cut in different parts of the head and body. Fawke has not been seen since at the village of Chipstowe, where he also resided, and there are strong proofs of his having been the perpetrator of the horrid murder. The young man who was with Miss F. lies in a dangerous state.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Married. At Worcester, Arthur Jepson, Esq. of the Brecon Militia, to Matilda, daughter of Mr. Jeremiah Clarke, of Worcester.

Died. John Baker, Esq. of Waresley-house.—At Evesham, H. Gooce, Esq. senior alderman of that borough.

YORKSHIRE.

Married. At Aldbrough, John Tindall, Esq. of Scarbrough, to Miss Alice Terry, daughter of the late Mr. Leonard Terry, of York.—At Bedale, Roger Martin, Esq. to Miss Carter, eldest daughter of Edward Carter, Esq. of Theakston, and grand-daughter of the late John Hardcastle, Esq. of Bedale.—At Cottingham, Ellis Owen Cunliffe, Esq. of Addingham, near Otley, to Mrs. Ewbank, only daughter of Wm. Kay, Esq. of Cottingham.—At Halifax, the Rev. Fergus Graham, of Arthuret, in Cumberland, to Miss Paley, eldest daughter of the late celebrated Dr. Paley, author of *Natural Theology*.—At the friends' meeting-house, Huddersfield, John Mason, Esq. of Liverpool, to Deborah, second daughter of the late John Elam, Esq. of Leeds.—At Sheffield, Henry Garrett Key, Esq. of London, to Miss Tudor, daughter of the late Henry Tudor, Esq.—At Wakefield, William Turner, Esq. of Kildhurst, near Doncaster, to Sophia, third daughter of the late John Foljambe, Esq. of Rotherham.

Died. Aged 68, the Rev. Henry Shepherd, B. D. rector of Brands-Burton, in this county, and of Ashby-cum-Fenby, in Lincolnshire: a man whose conscientious discharge of his professional duties, united with the greatest benevolence, excited the respect of all who knew him. He was brother to the late Archdeacon Shepherd (p. 152), who inscribed to him his translation of Boethius' *Consolations of Philosophy*.—Aged 66, William Marwood, Esq. of Busby-hall, one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the North Riding.—Aged 85, Mr. John Beecroft, of Westfields, near Bramley, one of the partners in the extensive iron works at Kirkstall Forge, near Leeds.—Francis Winn, Esq. of Richmond, banker: he was thrown from his horse while hunting and killed on the spot.—In his 46th year, after an hour's illness, universally lamented, Mr. Thos. Turner, plumber and glazier, of Elland, near Halifax: soon after he had retired to rest, on the night of his death, he had an attack of the cramp in one of his feet, when seeking to alleviate the pain by placing his foot upon the hearth, in his bed room, the sudden application of cold removed the complaint to a vital part, and he died almost instantly.—At York, aged 62, Mr. John Terry, surgeon and apothecary, and one of the common councilmen of that corporation.—At Bridlington, aged 84, John Farthing, Esq.—At Bradford, aged 101, John Fawthorp.—At Brigg, aged 106, John Johnson.—At Horsforth, aged 105, Mary Airt.—Aged 102, Sarah Dean.—At Eserich, Mr. ——— Clark, agent to Richard Thompson, Esq. He was a man of strict integrity and indefatigable industry; a character throughout his whole life totally unimpeachable, universally acknowledged an inestimable friend to the industrious farmer, whose interest, as well as that of his employers, was the principle which led to the popular esteem he always enjoyed. As he lived esteemed by all who knew him, he has consequently died equally lamented, and a worthy precedent to his professional successors.—At Rippon, aged 87, Samuel Coates, Esq. banker, senior alderman and father of the corporation. He was in business for more than half a century, and for industry and integrity has seldom been excelled, yielding to himself prosperity and happiness, and affording to mankind an example well worthy of imitation. He was a good citizen, being ever ready to contribute liberally towards whatever was considered for the public good or benefit of his neighbours, and to assist the industrious poor whenever they applied to him for aid. He lived useful to mankind, and has died a credit to his family and name.—At Wadworth, near Doncaster, Mrs. Dixon, lady of the Rev. H. Dixon, of Wadworth, and sister to the late Rev. William Mason, Prebendary of York.—At Dacentry, Mr. James Shaw, one of the aldermen of the corporation.—At Knaresborough, aged 82, Mrs. Broadbent. She has bequeathed 10l. a year for ever to the charity school in Knaresborough, and 15l. per ann. to the charity school in Harturth, near Ripley.—At Langtoft, aged 90, the Rev. Thomas Atkinson, vicar of Reighton, and perpetual curate of Hedmere and Filey. The

day before his death he had preached a sermon and baptized a child apparently in his usual health and spirits.—At *Thornaby*, near Stockton, George Hutton, Esq. of turf celebrity. In crossing a small bridge overflowed with water, he fell from his horse and was drowned.—At *Tinsley Toll-bar*, near Rotherham, aged 101, Ann Addy. She retained her mental faculties to the last, and was able to read the smallest print without glasses. Her mother lived to the advanced age of 108.

Sheriffs appointed by his Majesty in Council for the year 1809.

Bedfordshire, R. Garstin, of Harold, Esq.—*Berkshire*, Sir T. Metcalfe, of Fernhill, Bart.—*Buckinghamshire*, T. S. Badcock, of Buckingham, Esq.—*Cambridge and Huntingdonshire*, John Heathcote, of Conington Castle, Esq.—*Cheshire*, T. W. Tatton, of Wittinghall, Esq.—*Cumberland*, Miles Ponsonby, of Hail Hall, Esq.—*Derbyshire*, Charles Upton, of Derby, Esq.—*Devonshire*, Sir T. Dyke Ackland, of Kellerton, Bart.—*Dorsetshire*, J. J. Farquharson, of Langton, Esq.—*Essex*, John Rutherford Abdy, of Albyns, Esq.—*Gloucestershire*, J. H. Moggridge, of Dymock, Esq.—*Herefordshire*, William Wall, of Leominster, Esq.—*Hertfordshire*, Edmund Darby, of Ashton House, Esq.—*Kent*, Sir Brooke W. Bridges, of Goodneston, Bart.—*Leicestershire*, Sir W. Manners, of Buckminster, Bart.—*Lincolnshire*, Sir Robert Heron, of Stutton, Bart.—*Monmouthshire*, J. Kemys Gardner Kemys, of Pertherley, Esq.—*Norfolk*, James Coldham, of Anner, Esq.—*Northamptonshire*, R. Andrew, of Harleston, Esq.—*Northumberland*, W. Sadlier Brewere, of Berwick, Esq.—*Nottinghamshire*, T. Walker, of Bury Hill, Esq.—*Oxfordshire*, John Harrison, of Shelswell, Esq.—*Rutlandshire*, A. W. Bellaers, of Bulmerthorpe, Esq.—*Shropshire*, William Sparling, of Petton, Esq.—*Somersetshire*, John Nurton, of Milverton, Esq.—*Staffordshire*, Theophilus Levett, of Whichner, Esq.—*County of Southampton*, John Blackburne, of Preston Candover, Esq.—*Suffolk*, John Dresser, of Blyford, Esq.—*Surrey*, Edward Bilke, of Southwark, Esq.—*Sussex*, Thomas Tourle, of Landport, Esq.—*Warwickshire*, A. Bracebridge, of Atherstone, Esq.—*Wiltshire*, Sir C. W. Mallett, of Wilbury House, Bart.—*Worcestershire*, H. Bromley, of Abberley, Esq.—*Yorkshire*, Sir G. Wombwell, of Wombwell, Bart.—The Honourable Charles Bagnal Agar, is appointed Sheriff of the county of *Cornwall*, by the Prince of Wales in council.

WALES.

Married. At *Bosherston*, in *Pembrokeshire*, H. R. Jones, Esq. of Garthmell-hall, *Montgomeryshire*, to Miss A. Jones, daughter of the Rev. J. Jones, rector of that parish.

Died. At *Denbigh*, aged 78, Mrs. Myddleton, relict of the Rev. Robert Myddleton Gwynnynong, rector of Denbigh and St. George.—At *Ddru*, near *Rhayader*, *Radnorshire*, Nathan Seddon Prickard, a Deputy Lieutenant of that county. His death will be long and deeply lamented by those friends who had been intimately acquainted with the purity and excellence of his character.—At *Lauenny-Hall*, *Pembrokeshire*, in the 80th year of his age, Hugh Barlow, Esq. M. P.—He represented the Boroughs of Pembroke, Tenby, and Wiston, upwards of 34 years, having been elected seven sessions to serve in Parliament. At *Cardigan*, much regretted by all her acquaintance, Miss Ann Lloyd, sister to the late Walter Lloyd, Esq. of Coedmore, and to the present Rev. Thomas Lloyd, Rector of Langeedmore, in the county of Cardigan, and Chaplain to his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence.

Sheriffs appointed by his Majesty in Council for 1809.—*SOUTH WALES.*—*Cardmarthenshire*, Richard Isaac Starke, of Laugharne Castle, Esq.—*Pembroke*, Charles Allen Phillips, of the Hill, Esq.—*Cardigan*, William Skyrme, of Aitgock, Esq.—*Glamorgan*, Jeremiah Homfray, of Llandaff, Esq.—*Brecon*, Thomas Wood, of Gwernixett, Esq.—*Radnor*, John Whitaker, of Cascob, Esq.—*NORTH WALES.*—*Merioneth*, William Davies, of Ty Ucha, Esq.—*Carnarvonshire*, T. P. J. Parry, of Madryn, Esq.—*Anglesey*, Sir J. T. Stanley, of Bodewryd, Bart.—*Montgomeryshire*, Thomas Edwards, of Trefuent, Esq.—*Denbighshire*, Joseph Ablei, of Llanhedeo, Esq.—*Flintshire*, Thomas Peate, of Bristree, Esq.

SCOTLAND.

SCOTLAND.

The bill of Mortality for the city of Glasgow and suburbs for the year 1808 amounts to 3265; that for 1807 amounted to 1463, being an increase in the burials of last year of 802. This arises chiefly from the great mortality which took place last year by the measles. In the city and suburbs 805 died of this disease last year; whereas in 1807 the number did not exceed 70. It is worthy of remark, that in the town's hospital, where 48 were affected with measles, only three died; and, that the small pox, formerly the most destructive disease incident to infants, is now in a manner eradicated. In the year 1795 there died in Glasgow of the small pox 265, and last year only 14.

Married. At *Edinburgh*, James Davidson, Esq. W. S. to Mrs. Miller, widow of John Miller, Esq. of Jamaica.—John Stewart, Esq. of Binny, to Miss Janet Houstoun Dundas, youngest daughter of the late James Dundas, Esq. of the East India Company's service.—At *Merchiston Hall*, Charles Campbell, Esq. younger, of Comby, to Miss Christian Graham Napier, youngest daughter of the Hon. Charles Napier.—At *Springfield*, near Douglas, Lieut. Col. Robert Bowie, of the Bengal Establishment, to Eliza, daughter of the late James Coventry, Esq. of Newton-head.

Died. At *Spott-house*, Lady Seton, relict of Sir James Seton, of Abercorn, Bart.—At *Cessnock*, Mrs. Elizabeth Cunningham, relict of the late John Brown, Esq. of Knockmarnock.—At *Herriots-hill*, Mrs. Katherine Lockart, widow of the late Robert Jamieson, Esq. W. S.—On board His Majesty's ship *Ardent*, Leith Roads, Lieut. George Hume, of the Royal Navy, son to Clement Hume, of Mallow. He was an active and promising officer, was in several engagements, and was much beloved and respected by his brother officers. His remains were deposited in the church-yard of Burnt Island, with naval honours.—At *St. Andrews*, Captain John Graham Bonnar, of Greigston.—At *Muthil*, aged 64, the Rev. John Scott, minister of that parish.—At *Callander*, aged 64, Mrs. Ann Drummond, relict of James Simson, Esq. of Eden-head, Fife.

IRELAND.

The following occurrence, which took place lately at Skehewerinka, in the county of Clonmel, may serve as a caution to those who hereafter visit that subterranean wonder: A party of the officers of the Armagh regiment, viz. Majors Eusor and Blacker, Captains St. George, Fulton, and Seavor, proceeded to visit the cavern. Having procured some candles at an adjacent cabin, they descended, and after traversing its winding recesses, and viewing their many curiosities, the party returned, with the exception (as it then appeared), of Major Blacker, and the man who accompanied him as guide. After waiting a considerable time at the mouth of the cave in expectation of their return, the other gentlemen became alarmed, nor were their fears diminished by some of the countrymen on the spot, who concluded that their lights had failed, suggesting at the same time the dreadful possibility of their having fallen into some of the deep ponds with which the cavern abounds. Fresh lights being procured, a number of men, who professed themselves well acquainted with the various passages, were detached into the cave, with directions to shout boldly at frequent intervals. After searching in vain for upwards of an hour, they at length heard the shout faintly returned from an immense distance, and following the sound with great difficulty, they were fortunate enough to come up with the object of their search in a far distant and hitherto unexplored recess of the cavern. It appeared, that in searching for spar, they had missed the proper passage, and on wandering on in quest of it their lights burned out, and they were thus left in total and horrible darkness at least a mile from the entrance of the abyss. Providentially they had presence of mind to remain stationary, as, upon examining the situation in which they were found, it was awful beyond description, for had they attempted to have proceeded two yards further, they must have been precipitated down a frightful chasm, which yawned beneath the rock on which they had seated themselves, and where no human power could have prevented their being dashed to atoms. After being thus entombed for three hours, they were at last restored to the light of day.

Married.

Married. At *Dublin*, Captain Carter, Carlow regiment, to Miss Daley, only daughter of Colonel Daley, Lismore Castle, county of Galway.—Edward Elwood, Esq. Captain in his Majesty's 5th Garrison Battalion; to Miss Lindsay, only daughter of Arthur Lindsay, Esq. of St. Andries, county of Mayo.—Brig. General Brereton, Commander of the Kildare district, to Miss Margaret Dexter, youngest daughter of John Dexter, Esq. of Annesfield, in the same county.—By special license, the Rev. J. Taylor, of Clifton, England, to Miss Eliza Curran, youngest daughter of the Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls.—At *Cork*, Robert Charles Harker, Esq. Captain in his Majesty's 96th regiment, to Maria, eldest daughter of Edward Herrick, Esq. of that city.—Capt. William Serle, Aid-de-camp to Lieutenant-General Floyd, and son of Ambrose Serle, Esq. one of the Commissioners for conducting His Majesty's transport service, to Miss Bidsey Morgell, youngest daughter of the late Crosbie Morgell, Esq. of Mount Morgell, in the county of Limerick.—At *Glanmire*, Horatio Townsend, of Firmount, Esq. Captain in the South Cork regiment, to Catherine Anna Maria, eldest daughter of Abraham Morris, of Dunkettle, Esq.—By special license, at her father's house, Henry Coddington, Esq. of Mount-street, Dublin, to Miss Hamilton, daughter of John Hamilton, Esq. of Brown-Hall, county of Donegal, Ireland.

Died. John O'Neill, Esq. of Banvalo, lineally descended from the ancient Kings of Ulster. In the early part of his life he spent several years on the continent, and on his return to his native country devoted his attention to agriculture, and the linen trade. He possessed an excellent and well cultivated understanding, and was distinguished by a remarkable dignity, blended with the most amiable courtesy of manners. Through life his conduct was guided by the principles of integrity and honour, and conciliated universal esteem and respect. By his death the poor have lost a father, and his connexions an invaluable friend.—At *Clonmell*, Mr. James Gordon, eldest son of Sir Samuel Gordon, of that town.—At *Ruff-park*, in the Queen's county, after many years of extreme torture from the gout, the Rev. Oliver Flood, a magistrate of said county, and long Vicar of Auchmacart, in the diocese of Ossory, much and deservedly lamented.—At *Gamolin*, in the county of Wexford, Edward Flin, stucco man. He had left his lodgings early in the morning, in order to finish some work for a gentleman in the neighbourhood, and was found apparently dead, on the side of the road about eleven o'clock the same day, and the body was buried the following evening. The circumstance of sudden death and hasty interment, having a suspicious appearance, a neighbouring magistrate ordered the corpse to be taken up, when it was found, that he had turned in the coffin and bled profusely at the mouth and nose, from which it appears that the man had been buried alive.—At *Dublin*, Mr. Thomas M'Donnell, Proprietor of the Hibernian Journal.—Edward Lysaght, Esq. Barrister at Law.

Adieu thou soul of jest, for e'er adieu!
Wing'd by thy wit, the fleeting moments flew;
None still could say (to truth however blind)
That Lysaght's pungent jokes were e'er unkind:
Rais'd by his pun, convulsing laughs have roar'd
Round the wide circle of the festive board;
Death's frigid hand has chill'd that honest tongue,
Whence Clare's or Grattan's mimic accents rung;
Nor jest, nor jocund song, one day could save
Their gay possessor from the gloomy grave;
Wit, Patriot, Virtue, sunk alive with him,
And prov'd at length this life itself a *whim*.

HIGH SHERIFFS OF IRELAND.

Appointed by his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, for the year 1809.

County of Antrim. Sampson Moore, of Moore-Lodge, Esq.—*Armagh.* Robert Harden, of Harrybrook, Esq.—*Carlow.* John Cornwall, of Myshall, Esq.—*Cavan.* Luke Magrath, of Lakeville, Esq.—*Clare.* Thomas Studdart, jun. of Killishen-house, Esq.—*Cork.* Justin M'Carty, of Carrignavar, Esq.—*Donegal.* Alexander Boyd, of Letterkenny, Esq.—*Down.* Robert Bateson, of Orangefield,

Orangefield, Esq.—*Dublin*, Alexander Hamilton, of Hampton, Esq.—*Fermanagh*, Humphrey Stewart Nixon, Esq.—*Galway*, Robert French, of Monevae, Esq.—*Kerry*, Townsend Gun, of Tubrid, Esq.—*Kildare*, Sir Erasmus Dixon Burrowes, of Giltown, Bart.—*Kilkenny*, Ralph Gore, of Barrowmount, Esq.—*Kings County*, Thomas St. George Armstrong, of Mount Carteret, Esq.—*Leitrim*, Samuel White, of Glenfarm, Esq.—*Limerick*, Thos. Alex. Odel, of Odelville, Esq.—*Longford*, John Robinson, of Lisglassick, Esq.—*Louth*, Robert Thompson, of Anagasson, Esq.—*Mayo*, Thomas Palmer, of Summer-hill, Esq.—*Meath*, Arthur Hill Cornwallis Pollock, of Mountainstown, Esq.—*Monaghan*, Rd. Hen. Mitchell, of Newpark, Esq.—*Queen's County*, Thomas Cosby, of Stradbally-hall, Esq.—*Roscommon*, Thomas Kirkwood, of Hermitage, Esq.—*Sligo*, Alex. Perceval, Esq.—*Tipperary*, John Southcote Mansergh, Esq.—*Tyrone*, The Right Hon. Sir John Stewart, Bart.—*Waterford*, Anthony Chearnley, of Saltbridge, Esq.—*Westmeath*, George Purdon, of Curristown, Esq.—*Wexford*, William Percivall, of Williamston, Esq.—*Wicklow*, John Knox, of Woodstock, Esq.

FOREIGN OCCURRENCES.

Died. At *Madras*, the Rev. Richard Hall, Kerr, D.D. Senior Chaplain at that Presidency, and son to the Rev. Lewis Kerr, of Dublin.—On the 24th of Sept. last, in France, the Hon. Dame Isabella Style, widow of Sir Chas. Style, Bart. of Wateringbury, Kent, and sister of the Lord Viscount Powerscourt, of Ireland.—At *Belem*, near Lisbon, deeply lamented, Edward Moore, Esq. of the 18th Light Dragoons, and Brevet Major to the Hon. Gen. Charles Stewart.—At *Lisbon*, in the 25th year of his age, William Kirby, eldest son of William Kirby, of the county of Waterford, Esq. This young gentleman went out a volunteer to Portugal, with Sir A. Wellesley's expedition from Cork, and fought in the battle of Vimiera, with conspicuous courage and steadiness, without receiving a wound; but, being subject to a disease on his liver, the fatigue he was obliged necessarily to undergo, put a period to his existence in the prime of life.—Capt. Eustace, of the 20th Dragoons, son of the late Lieut.-gen. Eustace.—At her retreat in Switzerland, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cumberland. This lady was sister to the present, and daughter to the late Earl of Carhampton. Thirty years since she enlivened the gay world with her parties at Cumberland-house, Pall-mall, then the resort of all the rank and fashion at the West end of the town.—At *Brussels*, at an advanced age, James O'Connell, Esq. formerly resident, and possessed of considerable property in the neighbourhood of Glastonbury, Somersetshire.—In *Spanish Town, Jamaica*, aged 41, John Kirby, Esq. Chief Justice of the island.—Elizabeth Haywood, a free black woman, at the very advanced age of 130 years. She was a grown girl at the time of the earthquake which destroyed Port-Royal, in 1692, and remembers having gone with her mother for a load of the wreck which drifted ashore on the beach near Port Henderson on that occasion. She was a native of the island, and in her youth belonged to Dr. Charnock, of the above town.—At *Bermuda*, Lieut. J. G. Ram, of the Royal Navy, son of Colonel Ram, Member for the county of Wexford, and brother of Lieut. Ram, of his Majesty's ship, *Victory*, who fell with Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar and Capt. Peak, of the Royal Marines.—While on their return from David's Island to St. George's, on the third of February, they observed a man of war's boat, with a corporal of Marines and a sailor in her, endeavouring to pull against the tide, but which run so strong that the boat had already drifted more than half a mile, and was in danger of going upon the rocks. Lieut. Ram hailed the boat; desired the men to come into his boat. Lieut. Ram and Capt. Peak rose at the same time, and being on the same side, the boat was so crank that she upset. Capt. Peak could not swim and sunk immediately. Lieut. Ram, who could swim well, had reached a small island, as his body was found standing almost erect among the rocks. The corporal was drowned. The sailor could not swim, but was fortunate enough to get hold of the keel of the boat, and held fast until she drifted upon the rock, where he was picked up on the following

lowing morning. The body of Capt. Peak and the corporal were dragged for, and found in the course of a few hours. The characters of the deceased, as officers, could not be exceeded, and their private character was such as endeared them to all who were so happy to be ranked in their acquaintance. It is worthy of remark, that Captain Peak, had been on board the Victory, and received a wound by the same shot that killed Lieut. Ram; this circumstance was the occasion of that intimacy which subsisted between Capt. Peak and the brother, Lieut. J. G. Ram, previous to the melancholy accident taking place.—At *Morne Fortune*, St. Lucia, the 4th of Sept. Capt. Cates, Paymaster of the 6th West India regiment.—On his way from Canada to New York, Archibald McNeil, Esq. his Britannic Majesty's Consul for Louisiana.—At *Dominica*, in the 29th year of his age, most deservedly and sincerely lamented by every class of persons in that community, John Laing, Esq. Acting Provost Marshal of the island, and a Captain of the Royal St. George's Militia, &c. He has left a widow and four infant children to deplore his untimely loss.—At *St. Croix*, in the West Indies, George Mussenden Leathes, Esq. Lieutenant-Colonel of the 96th regiment of foot, son of George Leathes, Esq. of Bury.—In the island of *Tortola*, Charles Combe, Esq. youngest son of Dr. Combe, of Bloomsbury-square.—On his way from Bombay to Madras, by a stroke of the sun, Richard Arthur Wolfe, Lieutenant in the 47th foot, son of Philpot Rogerson Wolfe, Esq. of Balbriggan, grand-nephew to the late, and second cousin to the present Lord Viscount Kilwarden.—At *Mymensing*, in Bengal, aged 25, Henry Townley Roberdean, Esq. Register of the Zillah of Mymensing, eldest son of Mr. Roberdean, of Bath: a young man whose advance in life promised every thing good and great. Endowed with superior talents and distinguished abilities, he had during his nine years residence in India in the Company's civil service, obtained a notice particularly flattering, as well for the zealous discharge of official duty as for numerous displays of brilliant attainments in the belles lettres, both in verse and prose; all which abilities were surpassed by his goodness of heart and his filial and fraternal affection. On the very eve of receiving a promotion, which would speedily have returned him to his native country with an honourable and ample fortune, he was snatched from this earthly sojourn by a ten-day fever, leaving to his two brothers (also on the Bengal establishment) and to his afflicted relations in England, the indelible memorial of his numerous virtues, with the most poignant sorrow for his untimely loss.

"As the swollen column of ascending smoke,
"So solid swells thy grandeur, pigmy man!"

GENERAL MOORE. A respectable correspondent has communicated to us the following particulars of the character of this lamented officer, which we doubt not will be acceptable to our readers:—

It is not likely that there should be any want of commendation of the great military talents of General Moore, who unfortunately lost his life at the moment he was gaining a victory over a much more numerous army of the French at Corunna. Too much cannot, indeed, be said of his merit as an officer, and his death must be considered as a national loss.

But there is one part of his military character which was never exceeded, and that is, the wonderful esteem, I may say affection, of the army which he commanded, and the perfect confidence they reposed in him. This did not proceed from any address on his part, or any measures taken to gain popularity; but seems to have been the result of that confidence they had in his personal bravery and his skill as an officer; the care he took to provide against their wants; and the attention he paid, that the lives of those under his command should not be exposed to unnecessary danger, or without the prospect of some equivalent advantage.

It may be of some use to those officers who wish to follow his example or to tread in his steps, to observe that in these points Sir John Moore did not act from mere feeling, but upon principle; and that he was able to do it effectually, by having previously taken much pains to inform himself accurately of the precise duties of all the component parts and adjuncts of an army. Hence,
in

in any case of deficiency or complaint, he instantly knew whose duty it was to redress it, and by whose negligence it was occasioned.

In the midst of that renown with which his name and character are rendered illustrious, it is possible that his milder virtues may be overlooked, yet these were hardly less conspicuous than those of his private life. As a son, as a brother, as a friend in every relation of life, he possessed the affectionate, and, if I may be allowed the expression, the reverential esteem of all with whom he was connected. Yet these virtues were always practised without ostentation, and seemed to flow from his natural disposition. I had the pleasure of being in his company just before he embarked for Spain, and thought him one of the most agreeable and least assuming gentlemen I have ever seen.

When he returned from the glorious campaign he had made in *Egypt*, instead of residing in *London*, where he could not have appeared without receiving some flattering mark of that general respect entertained for him, he retired into the country to the house of his father, who then laboured under a disease which afterwards proved fatal. His assiduous and dutiful attention to his father was unceasing; and it was a most interesting sight to see General Moore, covered with the laurels he had gained, constantly occupied, by all possible means, to procure every comfort to alleviate the sufferings of a poor infirm old man. Of his attachment to his mother, through the whole course of his life, I need make no remark. It is enough to call to the recollection of the reader what passed between him and Col. Henderson after he had received his mortal wound. Having spoken of many of his friends, the Colonel mentioned his mother, "He sighed, was very much affected, but could not make any reply."

There certainly were in General Moore's character uncommon traits of almost every virtue, which did, indeed, render him illustrious, and would have been considered as great and valuable ornaments in private life.

It is remarkable that he never was in any action or battle, and he was in many, without receiving a wound.

D.

March, 1809.

General Anstruther, (p. 280) was the eldest son of Sir Robert Anstruther, of Balcaskie, in Fifeshire. After passing through Westminster-school with much credit, he was sent to Stratsburgh, to study the principles of that profession, of which he afterwards became so distinguished an ornament. Having acquired a profound knowledge of the military science, and attained great perfection in the French language, he proceeded to Berlin, with a view of becoming acquainted with the disciples of the Great Frederic, and of making himself master of the manœuvres and administration of a large army. By his residence in Prussia, he had also an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the German language, of which he made himself perfectly master. On his return to England, he obtained a commission in the third regiment of Guards, in which he held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel at the time of his death. After serving during the whole of the campaign in Flanders, at the commencement of the Revolutionary war, he obtained permission from the Court of Vienna, to be attached to the Austrian Army in Germany, whether he repaired in the spring of 1796, and the dispatches which he wrote in the autumn of that year, giving an account of the operations of the Archduke Charles, are perfect models of military composition. In 1799, he was appointed Deputy Quartermaster General, to the expedition sent to Holland, and in 1801 accompanied his gallant countryman Sir Ralph Abercrombie, in the expedition to Egypt as Adjutant General. His exertions during the whole of the Egyptian Campaign will long be remembered by his surviving companions in arms, and were mentioned in the dispatches of Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Lord Hutchinson with no common degree of praise.

On his return to Britain he was made Deputy Quartermaster General to the Forces; soon afterwards he was appointed to the important situation of Adjutant General in Ireland, and on the fitting out of the late expedition to Portugal, to the command the brigade of light troops. His brilliant conduct at Vimiera is too recent to require any comment, but we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure

pleasure of recording the manly answer given by him, to one of Sir A. Wellesley's Aids-de-camp, who was sent to inform him that a corps not much engaged at the moment should be sent his assistance. "Sir, I want no assistance. I am beating the French, and am able to beat them wherever I meet them."

In the progress of the late disastrous and unfortunate campaign in Spain, General Anstruther, joined the British army at Toro. He obtained the unbounded confidence of the Commander in Chief, who when it became necessary to retreat, intrusted the command of the reserve to General Anstruther and Lord Paget, and as strict discipline cannot without the greater difficulty be preserved in a retreating march, the duties of such a situation may be better conceived than expressed. The fatigue and anxiety to which the subject of this imperfect memoir was thus exposed, were incessant and great in the extreme, and could only be borne up against by zeal and activity such as he possessed. He slept constantly in the open air, and underwent the same privations with the common soldier. In short, as has been said of him by an eye witness of this arduous scene, "He gave the whole army the idea of a perfect military character in all its points, uniting in himself the whole theory and practice of his profession, and who joined to both an unconquerable zeal for the service—a zeal which killed him—for he positively died of the fatigue which he voluntarily incurred"—It was not until the arrival of the British reserve at *Balanos*, that the danger in which General Anstruther was placed by the severity of his duties became apparent. Here however he was so ill that he could hardly speak; he could scarcely say "I am dying, send for a surgeon and let me be bled." The next morning he felt somewhat better, but was still very ill. In this situation he was obliged to mount his horse, and ride six Spanish leagues (24 miles) to Corunna. The next morning he was speechless and insensible, and died towards the close of the day. He was buried in one of the bastions of the citadel of Corunna, which overlooks the sea, his remains being attended to the grave only by two officers, Major Montalambert, and Captain Gordon his aid-de-camp, who were all that could be spared to perform this sad and melancholy duty.

Thus perished Major General Anstruther, than whom a more accomplished officer, or a more splendid military genius never existed, and had it pleased Providence to have saved him, he must have risen to the highest pinnacle, as well of rank as reputation in his profession. In his private character he was not less conspicuously excellent, he possessed a mind stored with the most valuable and accurate information, the most unblemished honour, in a word, every requisite to cause him to be respected and beloved by his friends and all those who had the happiness and good fortune of being known to him. "His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him, that Nature might stand up and say to all the world THIS WAS A MAN."

RETROSPECT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

SOON after the unfortunate termination of the English expedition to Spain, on Jan. 27th, the French took possession of the port of Ferrol, and of eight ships of the line besides frigates lying in the harbour. It appears that upon an offer of the English to garrison the place, an answer was given that they were adequate to their own defence; and it is said that the inhabitants were desirous of resisting the French, but were compelled to submit by the military and officers.

The city of Saragossa, after an obstinate and almost unparalleled defence, in which the enemy were many days occupied in fighting from house to house, and street to street, surrendered on Feb. 14th. The French commander would not enter into any terms of capitulation, but he is said to have treated the inhabitants with lenity. Their progress in the other parts of Spain since the departure

parture of Napoleon appears not to have been considerable, and it is reported that they find it difficult even to keep their ground in Galicia, where there are many of the mountaineers in arms, and the Marquis of Romana has assembled a respectable force. They had not entered Portugal so late as March 11th, and preparations were still making in that kingdom for resisting them. A considerable English force remains at Lisbon.

The English troops sent round to Cadiz were not admitted there, as was expected; but the inhabitants have manifested the most hostile spirit against the French dominion. Suspicious having arisen that the persons in office were meditating to deliver the city into the hands of France, violent tumults took place, in which the collector of the customs was massacred, and others were seized and put under confinement. The supreme Junta has since addressed a proclamation to the people of Cadiz, lamenting their violence and precipitation, and informing them of the innocence of the persons suspected.

On Feb. 21, a French fleet of eight ships of the line and two frigates, under the command of Admiral Willaumez, escaped from Brest harbour and proceeded southwards. Off l'Orient they were to be joined by three frigates; but these were not able to get out soon enough; and when they did, they were chased on shore in Sable roads by an English squadron, and are not likely to be fit for service again. Willaumez arrived on the 24th in Basque roads, when the English ships which were blockading Rochefort had sailed. Being joined by some ships of war in that port, he proceeded to the road of the Isle of Aix, a division having in the meantime got to sea from l'Orient. Since the return of the English in force, the French fleet has been blockaded in the road of Aix, and appears in a hazardous situation. One of its ships of the line ran on the shoals and was lost.

The English frigate the *Proserpine*, incautiously reconnoitering the harbour of Toulon, was attacked and taken by two French frigates which had slipped out to sea for the purpose.

The most important event in Europe to this country has been the peace which was signed on January 5th between the English minister, Mr. Elliot, and the Porte. The disturbed state of that country, however, may for some time prevent the commercial advantages which might be expected from the renewed intercourse with its harbours. The triumph of the Janissaries over the Scimens appears to have been nearly confined to the capital; and the bashaw of Rudshuck, a friend of the late Bairactar, with other chiefs of that party, have been collecting their forces, and are said now to be in great strength, and preparing for an attack on the ir adversaries. A bloody civil war may therefore be expected in the heart of Turkey, whilst its borders are disquieted by the hostilities of the Servians, the Wahabees, and other habitual foes.

Germany is now the theatre to which the eyes of politicians are chiefly turned, and a short time must determine whether the flames of war are to be rekindled in that country. The ill will of Austria to France, justly excited by the insatiable ambition of the sovereign of the latter, was decisively displayed in the assistance given by the internuncio of the former power at Constantinople to the English Minister in his negotiations for peace; and the official French paper, the *Moniteur*, by its complaints on this head, gave proof of the deep resentment of Napoleon on the occasion. Other causes of mutual dissatisfaction doubtless subsist, and they are of sufficient importance to have produced

duced on both sides the most active and formidable preparations for war. Levies of men have been raised throughout the Austrian dominions, and all the frontier garrisons have been strengthened. On the other side, the French Emperor has called upon the Rhenish Confederacy to furnish its contingents; and with his usual celerity has pushed forward troops to the banks of the Danube. He has not yet left Paris, but is said to have announced to his dependent courts of Stutgard and Munich his intention to visit them. Both parties are carrying on active negotiations with the court of Russia, but the influence of France is so decided there, that it is to be apprehended Austria will at least meet with no succour from that quarter. The French Ambassador, Andreossi, has left Vienna, and arrived at Paris, as supposed, with the ultimatum of that court. Though appearances at present are extremely warlike, it is not improbable that the dread of so serious a conflict may yet produce an accommodation. The plans of Austria seem to be merely defensive, which, if she is to stand single, is obviously her sole policy.

In the meantime, the North of Europe has witnessed one of those revolutions which of late years have given so many striking lessons of the instability of thrones. The war which the King of Sweden, as the ally and subsidiary of England, has long carried on against the whole French confederacy, has been peculiarly unfortunate to that country, which has lost its valuable German possessions, and the extensive province of Finland, and has been reduced to an alarming state of exhaustion; and much as we may admire the persevering constancy and fidelity of the Monarch, it cannot be supposed that his subjects have been willing sufferers in a cause remotely connected with their interests. His character too, arbitrary, violent, and capricious, was not calculated to conciliate a people who have scarcely forgotten that they not long since possessed a free government. The discontents, which were secretly gaining ground, at length broke out in a mutiny of the troops on the frontier of Norway, apparently fomented by their commander, Count Aldersparre, who marched with them towards Stockholm. Measures must, in the meanwhile, have been preparing at the capital; for on March 13th, the King, as he was about to depart for his country residence, was arrested, and placed under close custody, as were two or three of his confidants. His uncle, the Duke of Sudermania, immediately issued a proclamation, as administrator of the kingdom, in which he declared the King incapable of acting, or of conducting the important affairs of the nation, and notified his intention of consulting with the States on the means of restoring the prosperity of Sweden. It cannot be doubted, that one of the first measures will be to negotiate a peace; and it is very probable that the constitution will eventually be brought back to its former principles.

In the United States of America, the congress has been long and earnestly engaged in the consideration of the measures to be pursued relative to the policy forced upon them by the belligerent powers: The embargo has evidently become more and more unpopular in the eastern states, and has in several instances been broken by vessels which have sailed away for England; and persisting in it may endanger the continuance of the union. It is therefore thought, that after the installation of the new President, Mr. Madison, which was to take place on March 4th, an act will pass to repeal the embargo with respect to other nations, and to substitute a strict non-intercourse bill with England

and

and France, as long as their obnoxious restrictions of American commerce shall subsist.

The French colony of Cayenne surrendered without resistance to an English and Portuguese force, on January 12th.

An expedition which has been long preparing in the West-Indies against Martinique, arrived off that island and landed the troops under General Prevost, on January 30th. After some severe actions they gained the fortified height of Sourrier, and reduced Pigeon island, the French retiring to their strong fort of Bourbon, which has since been completely invested. The towns of St. Pierre and Fort Royal are also in the possession of the English, and the success of the enterprize is confidently anticipated.

The determination of the House of Commons respecting the charges against the Duke of York as Commander in Chief has been the principal subject of domestic interest during the past month, as the examination of the evidence was, of the preceding. The discussion of this business began on March 8, and was continued by adjournments, under a renewed call of the House, and with very late sittings, till the 20th. All the leading speakers took part in the debate, and every circumstance of the evidence was commented upon with great freedom and acuteness. It was observable that all those who undertook the defence of the Duke were members of the administration and crown lawyers; whereas on the other side were many of the most independent members, several of whom were not habitual oppositionists. After much perplexed consideration of the mode of coming to a decision, three different determinations remained for the choice of the House; one implying the Duke's knowledge of and connivance at the corrupt practices which had been proved to exist, and therefore suggesting to his Majesty the propriety of his removal from his office; another, entirely acquitting him of the charges; and a third, a kind of medium between the two. The first division, on March 15th, related to the question of proceeding by address or by resolution; and it was carried by 294 to 199 in favour of the latter mode; by this decision, the medium, or Mr. Bankes's amendment, was set aside. The House then divided upon Col. Wardle's original motion, which was a direct inculpation of the Duke, and it was rejected by 364 to 123. On March 17th the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved a resolution to the following effect—That the House having examined the evidence in the investigation of the Duke of York's conduct, and having found that personal corruption and connivance at corruption had been imputed to him, are of opinion that the imputation is wholly without foundation. On a division this motion was carried by 278 to 196.

The victory, however, was too hardly gained, and was too little supported by the opinion of the public, to make it expedient for the Commander in Chief to continue in possession of his office; and his resignation was formally declared on the 20th to the House of Commons, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was at the same time softened by an intimation of a possible future return to place; and a motion of Mr. Bragge Bathurst's, conveying a censure on the Duke for the immoral and unbecoming connection which had been the cause of a pernicious and corrupt influence in respect to military promotions, was negatived without a division.

Thus for the present has terminated a business which, whatever it may have been in its origin, was certainly in its progress rendered of great national importance,

portance, and will make a memorable passage in the parliamentary history of this reign. It has been conducted with a freedom of debate highly honourable to the character of the country; and if its issue be regarded as a proof of the preponderating influence of the court and ministry in parliament, it is also a demonstration that the most elevated rank cannot, under the British constitution, shelter abuses from detection, or protect those concerned in them from the effects of the public displeasure. At the commencement of this enquiry, when the evidence for the charges preferred against the Duke appeared feeble and indefinite, one of the ministers thought proper to say, with a kind of menace, "that infamy must rest *somewhere*." It seems generally agreed that it does not rest with the prosecutor, who has performed an arduous public duty with manliness and perseverance, and has been the means of bringing to light many infamous practices.

Mention was made in the House of Commons of an intended address from a body of general officers to the Duke of York expressive of their high esteem and attachment, which, as a dangerous and unconstitutional interference on the part of the army on such an occasion, was warmly censured by the member who noticed it, and was not less decisively condemned by Mr. Secretary Caning; so that the measure is probably dropt.

Sir David Dundas has been nominated to the vacant post of Commander in Chief.

On March 7th, Mr. Whitbread made a motion in the House of Commons respecting the Orders in Council and conciliation with America, similar to that moved in the House of Lords by Lord Grenville. On a division it was lost by 145 to 83.

Other parliamentary proceedings during the month have not been interesting.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

Since our last we have to announce the sailing of an outward-bound West India fleet from Cork, under convoy of His Majesty's ship, Princess Charlotte. We announce also with pleasure the arrival of a considerable fleet of vessels from Oporto, under convoy of His Majesty's ship, Adonis. A large supply of wines has been received by this fleet, as also some valuable articles of Portuguese property, besides a quantity of different sorts of goods which had not many months before been exported thither from this country, but which, owing to the unsettled state of Portugal, and other discouraging circumstances, had arrived to a very unfavourable market; in fact, so small has been the number of bidders for some articles of our manufacture, both at Lisbon and Oporto, that many a losing bargain has been made by our traders, rather than submit to the risk of waiting for a more favourable market, or, to the expensive alternative, of re-shipping them to England. We are at the same time, however, happy to be enabled to contradict the reports which have of late obtained, namely, that there is now a very large stock of British goods unsold in those places; the fact is, our merchants and manufacturers have, for some time past had but very little encouragement to make consignments either to Spain or Portugal; and the spirit of over-trading, which not unfrequently characterises our countrymen, was, in consequence of the peculiar and embarrassing situation of those countries, so much repressed, that the quantity of goods which was actually sent out was very small compared to what it would have been under other circumstances.

The

The extravagant prices which are now demanded for all kinds of ship timber, particularly for such as is adapted for the purposes of ship-building, has induced our Government to enter into extensive contracts for being supplied with that article to be brought from Nova Scotia. Several private builders and dealers have adopted the same plan. A considerable number of vessels have sailed thither for that purpose, and we may therefore, in the course of the present year, expect the arrival of a plentiful supply of good masts and spars, besides a large stock of other timber, fitted for the general purposes of home consumption.

We learn with pleasure that arrangements have been made by the Directors of the East India Company, for bringing home by the next year's fleet, a considerable quantity of hemp:—in the meantime this article is on the decline, and as we understand there is now in the market a quantity nearly equal to three year's consumption, besides a good supply in the royal dock-yards, there is some reason to suppose that the extravagant prices which were some time ago obtained for this commodity is rather to be attributed to a premature alarm than to any well-grounded apprehension of immediate scarcity.

The linen manufacturers in Ireland still continue to suffer much in consequence of the small quantity of flax seed which is on hand, and the consequent high price to which that article is now advanced, owing to the long continuance of the American embargo. This inconvenience, however, we trust will now be of short duration, as we have already a large quantity of that article in our own settlements in North America, which will be forwarded to this country by the earliest opportunity. In the meantime flax seed keeps up its price in the home market, and will, we apprehend, continue to do so, until we receive this supply: its arrival, however, cannot well be expected before the latter end of June, on account of the severity of the climate in North America, and the consequent obstruction which it opposes to all navigation before the middle of April. A bounty is to be given by Parliament for encouraging the growth of flax seed in Ireland.

The Court of Directors of the East India Company have declared for sale on Wednesday, the 5th April, 1809, prompt 7th July following, the undermentioned quantities of silk: 600 bales China raw silk, 865 bales Bengal do., 70 bales Company's Organzine, and 103 bales of privilege and private trade do.:—in addition to the above, there will also be re-sold on the same day, unless previously cleared, and taken away, one lot China, and 109 do. Bengal raw silk; the same having remained in the Company's warehouses more than three years from the day of sale. The following quantities of pepper will be put up for sale on Tuesday, the 11th April 1809, prompt 21st July following, 4,700 bags black pepper, 300 bags white do.: these articles will be put up at 12½d. per lb.

West India produce in general keeps up its price. Sugars and rum have rather advanced since our last. Coffee continues as before.

The following is an account of the total official and real value of all goods imported into and exported from Great Britain for the year ending 10th October, 1808, distinguishing the foreign and colonial merchandize from British products and manufactures.

There are, it is to be observed, no official returns of the real value of foreign goods, either imported or exported, but only of such British products and manufactures as are chargeable with duty ad valorem. The values below stated are, however, calculated according to the best information which could be procured.

EXPORTS.	IMPORTS,		Years ending 10th October.	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS,	
	Official Value.				Real Value.	
	Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.	British Pro- ducts and Manufactures.			Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.	British Pro- ducts and Manufactures.
<i>l.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>l.</i>		<i>l.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>l.</i>
22,058,003	8,395,269	24,947,782	1806	38,398,645	9,005,120	39,368,212
23,493,127	9,090,918	24,550,724	1807	40,947,300	9,679,652	39,041,854
20,707,323	6,680,024	21,925,538	1808	34,448,620	7,138,282	35,233,477

The above account is exclusive of the value of the imports and exports of Scotland, and likewise of the importations from China and the East Indies; the returns of which being made up and transmitted in annual periods ending 5th January, are not yet received for the year 1808. The amount of both has therefore been omitted in the two preceding years of the account, (1806 and 1807) in order to preserve the comparative view of one year with another.

The Gazette of the 18th inst. contains an Order in Council directing the further suspension of two Acts of the 48th of his present Majesty, as far as relates to the imposition of certain duties on particular articles, being the produce of friendly countries, or coming from ports, or in ships, in amity with Great Britain. The same Gazette also contains another Order in Council, dated 16th inst. for permitting, until three months after the ratification of a definitive treaty of peace, the importation into Great Britain of hides, tallow, wool, goat skins, and certain other articles in foreign ships, on paying the same duties as if they had been imported in British ships.

The new Act for enforcing the embargo laws in America is, we understand, in regard to France and England, peculiarly rigid in all its provisions. One of its clauses enacts, that no person shall, on any account, export to either of these states or their dependencies, any goods or produce either of foreign or domestic growth or manufacture, under pain of forfeiting three times the value of all such articles so exported. It is also declared to be unlawful to ship any goods without first obtaining a permit from the proper officer of the customs to authorise the same; in which case the master and owners must enter into bond, in six times the value of the ship and cargo, that the vessel shall not proceed to any of the foreign ports in question. Since our last report, however, a few more ships have contrived to reach this country, and the quantity of cotton which they have brought, added to the supplies received from the Brazils and other quarters, have induced a fall in the price of that article of from 2d. to 3d. per lb. The apparent relaxation of the embargo, of which accounts have very lately arrived, we consider to be chiefly a nominal measure.

The following is a statement of the quantity of cotton-wool imported into this country between the 2d and 15th ult.

St. Thomas . . .	2,038 lbs.	Brazils . . .	39,973 lbs.
St. Lucia . . .	6,903	Malta . . .	16,760
St. Salvador . . .	31,700	Streights . . .	178 bales
Rio Janeiro . . .	25,000	Bermuda and	
Foggia	18,076	Jamaica . . .	1,000 lbs.

Licenses for the further importation from Holland of butter, cheese, and other articles of provision are now no longer to be granted, the Board of Trade having lately, it is said, issued an order to that effect. This, we are told, is intended as a measure of retaliation upon the enemy for the decrees which have been put in force in Holland against the commerce of this country. Restrictive measures

measures of this nature are, however, only to be resorted to under peculiar circumstances. There may be good policy in such retaliations, when there is a reasonable ground for supposing that their enforcement will have the effect of inducing the enemy to withdraw his prohibitory decrees; but when there is little, or no such probability, and when we know that the commodities which we are now precluded from receiving by this Order in Council can be brought into our market at a cheaper rate than we ourselves can produce them, it must surely be a hurtful regulation that would put a stop to such supplies, more especially too when we have a chance of disposing of a quantity of our own produce and manufactures in exchange; for some of these will find their way into the enemy's ports, notwithstanding all his custom-house officers and Gens d'armerie.

With respect to the article of French brandies, against which a similar prohibition is extended, we most cordially approve of the regulation, first, because it is not a necessary of life; and, secondly, because an excellent substitute is to be had in the rum of our own colonies.

Grain is now permitted to be exported from France, and the following ports are declared to be open for that purpose. Dunkirk, Calais, Dieppe, St. Valery upon Somme, Havre, Rouen, Caen, and Granville. The grain is to pay export duty according to a progressive rate of customs. Rye, barley, oats, grit, and Indian corn, pay one moiety of the duty laid on wheat.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

3 per Cent. Cons.	- - - - -	67 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ 7
5 per Cent. Navy	- - - - -	97 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$
Imp. 3 per Cents.	- - - - -	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Annuities	- - - - -	7 9-16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Omnium	- - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ prem.
India Bonds	- - - - -	7 5 prem.
Exchequer Bills	- - - - -	6 8 4 5 prem.
English Lottery Tickets	- - - - -	21l. 19s.
Consols for Ac.	- - - - -	67 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

The Average Prices of Navigable Canal Shares, Dock Stock, Fire-Office Shares, &c. in MARCH, 1809; at the Office of Mr. Scott, 28, New Bridge-street, London.

The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, 700l. dividing 40l. nett per ann.—River Trent, 65l. dividing 7l. per cent.—Monmouth, 106l.—Kennet and Avon, 23l.—Wilts and Berks, 27l.—Ashby, 19l.—Thames & Medway, 77l.—West India Dock, 174l. to 173l.—East India Dock, 126l.—London Dock, 117l. 10s. to 118l. Commercial Road, 115l. per cent.—East London Water Works, 43l. premium.—West Middlesex ditto, 9l. 9s. to 10l. 10s. premium.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR MARCH.

The business of sowing Lent corn is rather backwarder than common this year, but that which is above ground looks healthy. The dryness of the past month has been especially favourable to the low and wet lands, which have worked well. Perhaps more spring wheat has been sown than in any former season, a circumstance which may have a very material effect upon the market. Very little hemp or flax has been sown. The overflowed lands in the fens have in course lost their season. The drill husbandry is gradually increasing in those districts where it has been introduced.

The wheats in general, a most extensive breadth, look finely, and should we have a prosperous harvest, a point of vital consequence will be determined, that is, in what degree we are at present able to supply ourselves with the staff of life. The arrival or expectation of a few cargoes of smuggled French wheat is talked of, and we ought farther to talk and to feel, that France, under all her difficulties, has not only grown her own corn, but is become an exporting country.

Turnips

Turnips and cattle food in general, from the dryness and fineness of the weather, hold out much better than was expected. Sugar-feeding of cattle has not proceeded in the country beyond a few experiments. Live stock at a very high rate, more particularly stores, whether bullocks or sheep; but cows cheaper. Prime horses fetch very high prices.

Imported fine wool cheaper; but English and Anglo-Merino wools dearer. Long wools, although not affected like the fine, have sold more readily and at higher prices than last year.

Smithfield. Beef, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. Mutton, 5s. 4d. to 6s. 4d. Veal, 6s. to 7s. 4d. Lamb, 20s. Pork, 6s. to 8s. Bacon, 7s. to 7s. 2d. Irish do. 5s. 10d. to 6s. 2d. Skins, 28s. to 30s. Fat, 5s. 4d. to 5s. 6d. per stone.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.

The dry and frequently warm weather, with the moderate rains we have had since the beginning of last month, have produced a sudden and favourable change in the state of vegetation, consequently the crops of wheat, rye, and tares, have much improved in their appearance. The fineness of the season has been equally favourable to the sowing and drilling of beans, peas, and spring tares. The sowing also of oats on leys, and barleys on winter fallows, have been carried on with much facility, more so than could have been expected, from the excessive moisture of the lands at the commencement of the year. Such of the spring crops as are above the ground look promising and well.

The artificial grasses and pastures in warm situations begin to thrive, and on well-managed farms the meadows have been rolled at 4 bush-harrowed, the stones and briars, &c. having been previously picked up and carried away.

The dry weather has been friendly to the fall of lambs, which have been attended with but few casualties. The recent purchases of lean stock at the late fairs were few, and at reduced prices, from the scarcity and increasing dearness of hay, fodder, &c.

PRICE OF GRAIN.

ENGLAND AND WALES.			SCOTLAND.		
	s.	d.		s.	d.
Wheat	94	9		85	3
Rye	65	3		50	4
Barley	46	4		39	3
Oats	34	8		32	10
Beans	62	3		58	9
Pease	65	5		58	9
Oatmeal	51	3		28	7
Bigg	—	—		33	9

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The following pieces are left for return at Messrs. Longman and Co.

Prose.—*Ceremonial at Covent Garden. Anecdote of the Cartoons. P. Q. Remarks on Mr. Malthus's Essay. Rights of Women. Foundation of Allegiance to Governments. Projector. Investigator. X. Y. Z. Democritus Minor.*

Verse.—*Satire against Hypocrites. To May. Latin Translation from the Persian. Lines on Spain. Translation from the French on May-day. Stanzas to a Lady. Maria. The Father's Complaint. Sonnet on Falkirk Castle. On the American Embargo. Neotic.*

ERRATA.

In No. 27, p. 252, for *Hottest*, October, r. *Wettest*.

In the present number, p. 302, for *Fortune* r. *Fortunate*.